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THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE

BASED ON THE HIT ANIME SERIES!

Katsu Aki

Original Concept by Hajime Yatate & Shoji Kawamori

7

天空のエスカフローネ

ESCAFLOWNE

7

漫画 克・亜樹

原案 矢立肇／河森正治
（スタジオぬえ）

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE

INTRODUCTION

"Tenkuu no Escaflowne" ("Escaflowne of the Heavens," or "The Vision of Escaflowne" in North America) began as a story in the minds of Hajime Yatate and Shoji Kawamori, brilliant creators who planned Hitomi's epic tale to appear as an animated television series. While most anime series begin as manga, Escaflowne's two manga series were built off the ideas developed for the anime. Yuzuru Yashiro's shojo, or "girls'" manga, is two volumes in length. In contrast, Katsu Aki's shonen, or "boys'" manga, is much longer and happens to be the version you now hold in your hands.

Aki-sensei handled both the art and writing for this title, and it was actually the first version of Escaflowne to reach the public. While based on the concept of the anime, it began its serialization before the anime was complete. This version of the Escaflowne tale has a different flavor from the television series, with more action, tweaked character design, and an altered story. As a result, it is difficult to closely compare the two—they are simply two different versions of Hitomi's adventures. Escaflowne's versatility has always fetched great praise over the years. Its manga counterparts only expand the work's reach and deepen its universe. With that in mind, please put aside all preconceptions you may have as you sit back, relax, and enjoy this new look at the world of Escaflowne as you've never seen it before.

Lianne Sentar, April 2003

Special thanks to Egan Loo and his Escaflowne Compendium (http://www.anime.net/escaflowne/)

The Story Thus Far

On the tumultuous planet of Gaea, Prince Van of Fanelia has lost his homeland and his mother. In both incidents, the traumatized former Fanelian known as Dilandau and the tyrannical Zaibach Empire played key roles. To better combat the threat of Zaibach, Prince Van and his allies joined the Revolutionist's Army, an underground army of rebels united in their determination to bring down the Empire. However, Van was enraged to discover that Dilandau–and many other former Zaibach warriors–are also in the army's ranks. Queen Escalina's final message to her son managed to prevent Van from carrying out the vengeance he so intensely desires...so far. However, Van's reluctant acceptance of Dilandau as a brother-in-arms remains tenuous, to say the least.

The Revolutionist's Army journeyed to the Duchy of Freid and tried to protect the Duchy's crucial Energist depository from a predicted Zaibach onslaught. Unfortunately, it was not to be. A traitor within the royal family caused the mission to end in failure, and the fuel buried beneath Freid fell into the Empire's hands. As Van, Allen, and the Army tried to hold their ground against Zaibach's army of Steel Demons, Hitomi was puzzled by new visions of a woman named Escallowne, who appears to be the spirit inside her Energist body. Could Hitomi's new information on the ancients of Gaea be the key to stopping the Empire?

VOLUME VOL.7

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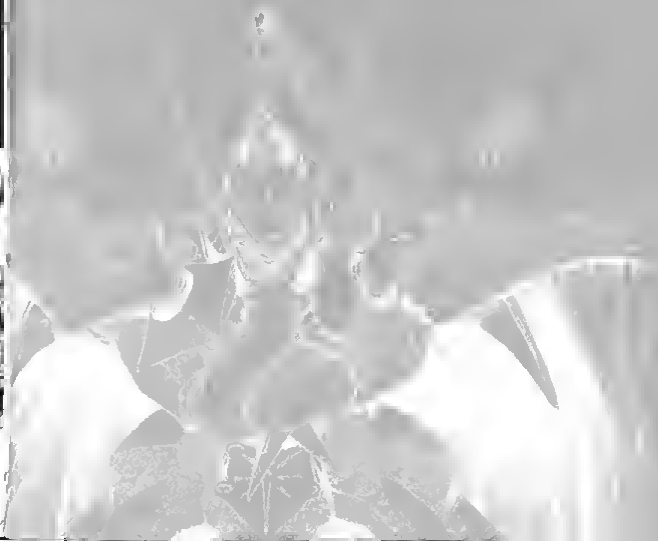


CHARACTER INTRODUCTIONS

Knight of Flame

One of the most powerful Knight Machines in the Zaibach Empire, the Knight of Flame is Zaibach's top assassin. Piloted by Yaifa.

Yaifa

One of the best warriors in Zaibach. Although Yaifa holds Dilandau in high regard, he was ordered to terminate the renegade pilot and suffers from internal conflict as a result.

Hitomi

An ordinary girl who loves reading fortunes, Hitomi Yoshino's soul was involuntarily transported from the Earth to Gaea to be the source of Escaflowne's power.

Van

Prince of the Kingdom of Fanelia and pilot of Escaflowne. Van Slanzar de Fanelia seeks vengeance against the Zaibach Empire for destroying his homeland and kidnapping his mother.

Dilandau

Executive Captain of the Zaibach Empire, Dilandau Albatou was originally from Fanelia, but left the kingdom shortly after killing his own mother. After loyally serving Zaibach, Dilandau kidnapped Queen Escalina and fled the Empire.

Allen

Head of the Knights Caeli of the Asturian Royal House and pilot of Scherazade, Allen Schezar VIII broke Asturia's non-aggression treaty with the Zaibach Empire by protecting Van and Hitomi.

Dornkirk

The emperor of Zaibach, Dornkirk has very mysterious origins. Aided by Zaibach's technological prowess and harnessed super fuel, Dornkirk has set his sights on conquering Earth.

Escalina

Queen of Fanelia and Van's mother, Escalina was kidnapped by Dilandau. When he accidentally murdered her, Van swore vengeance against Dilandau despite Escalina's insistence that Van let go of his hate.

Scherazade

A legendary Knight Machine piloted by Allen Schezar VIII.

Escaflowne

A powerful Knight Machine piloted by Van and powered by Hitomi, Escaflowne is both the protector and deity of the people of Fanelia.

VISION 27:
ESPIONAGE

MY HEAD HURTS A BIT
Ouch!
IS VAN AROUND?
EVERYONE'S AT THE CASTLE
CUTE GIRL
I THINK THAT MAGICAL BODY OF YOURS NEEDS A NAP.
YOU'RE JUST TIRED.
.....?
SO TELL ME THE TRUTH, HITOMI. DO WE REALLY STAND A SNOW-CONE'S CHANCE IN HELL AGAINST THE EMPIRE?

HOW ARE YOU FEELING, MISS HITOMI?

HUH? WHAT KINDA ARK?
IF HE MAKES IT TO THE BLUE STAR...
THERE'S AN ARK IN THAT COUNTRY, PUP. THE LEGACY OF AN ANCIENT CIVILIZATION.
LOCATING THAT ARK IS DORNKIRK'S FIRST STEP TOWARD CONQUERING THE PHANTOM PLANET.
YOU HAVEN'T BEEN ENTIRELY STRAIGHT WITH US, LUGAU.
NO COMMON EMPIRE SOLDIER COULD POSSIBLY KNOW ALL THAT.
TRUE.
BUT I NEVER SAID I WAS A COMMON EMPIRE SOLDIER.
FORGIVE OUR FAILURE, YOUR GRACE.
NOT AT ALL. YOUR PRESENCE HELPED US KEEP DAMAGE TO A MINIMUM, CHIEF NOLAND.
GREAT. BUT STRAIGHT DEFENSE IS GONNA GET US NOWHERE FAST
NOW THAT [illegible] ALL THE FUEL THEY NEED, ZAIBACH WILL BE HEADING TO PARADAX.
WE HAVE TO HEAD TO THE UNKNOWN CONTINENT.
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS, LUGAU. THE SPACE-TIME STORMS ARE OUT OF CONTROL THERE.
WHAT?

HAH...
HUH..
...IN A ZAIBACH BIO LAB.
I WAS RAISED...
--HUMAN ENERGIST? NOT QUITE.
YOU MEAN YOU'RE A--
IT'LL PROBABLY P-PASS, THOUGH DON'T WORRY ABOUT IT
SOMETHING'S WRONG, VAN. I'VE FELT IT EVER SINCE I FELL INTO THAT FUEL LIGHT.
HITOMI, WHAT IS IT?
UH, BOYS? YOU MIGHT WANT TO TAKE A LOOK AT THIS
?!
LISTEN UP, KIDS. WE'VE WASTED TOO MUCH TIME. WE ACT AGAINST ZAIBACH NOW.
TAKE A LOOK AT WHAT?
.....
ALL RIGHT.
I'LL KEEP AN EYE ON HER.

.....

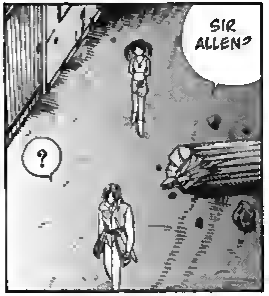
THAT KIND OF FAITH DOESN'T ALWAYS COME EASY, SIR ALLEN.

!!

I'M FEELING NAUGHTY!

HEY, IT LOOKS LIKE WE'RE ALONE. EVERYONE ELSE IS AT THE SAFE HOUSE.

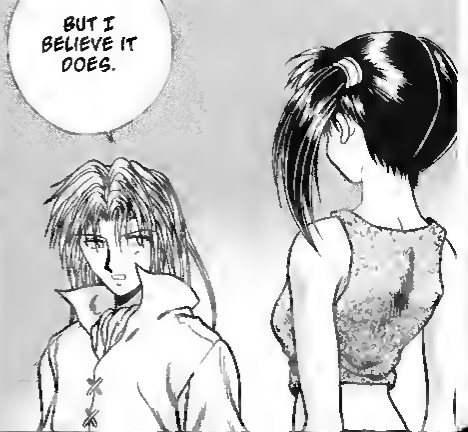
BUT CHIEF LUGAU IS LYING TO YOU THE PHANTOM PLANET DOESN'T EXIST.
I, UH...I KNOW IT'S NONE OF MY BUSINESS...


SIR ALLEN?
?

PERHAPS NOT.

.....

AND WE ALL HAVE TO BELIEVE IN SOMETHING.


BUT I BELIEVE IT DOES.

WANNA BET, BIG BOY?
FEELING DIZZY. I CAN'T...

NOW, DON'T TRY THIS AT HOME, GIRLS. NOT UNLESS YOU'VE DOSED UP ON THE ANTIDOTE BEFOREHAND.
Then it's fine.
YEAH, I'VE BEEN TOLD MY KISS CAN SWEEP A MAN OFF HIS FEET SPECIALLY AFTER I'VE COATED MY LIPS IN POISON.

NNGH!

TRUER WORDS WERE NEVER STUTTERED!

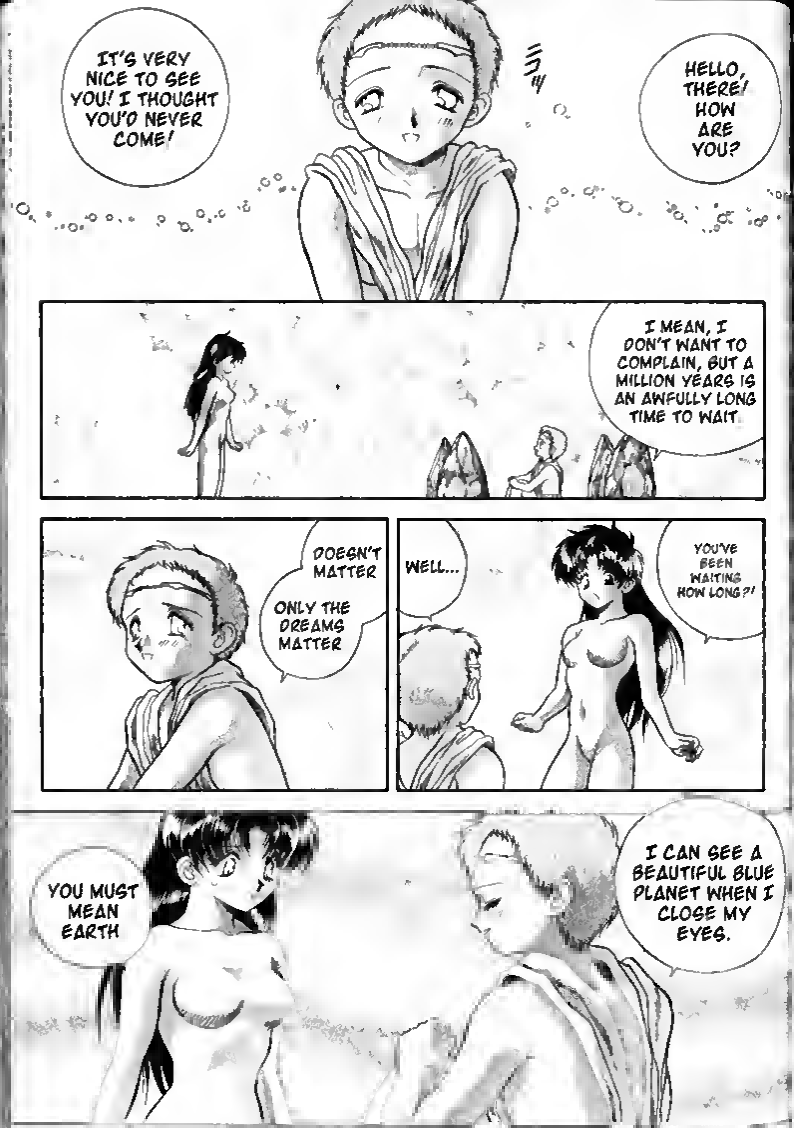
I'M N-NOT DEAD YET!

WHICH MAKES IT THAT MUCH HARDER TO SAY GOODBYE.
grip

YOU REALLY ARE GORGEOUS.

AND HE'S GOOD WITH HIS HANDS!
YOU'RE NO SOLDIER.

I'D FIX YOU IF I HAD ANY IDEA HOW..
WE'VE PUT YOU THROUGH TOO MUCH LATELY, HITOMI. YOUR BODY'S GOING CRAZY.
AAAH!
I KNEW YOU WERE TROUBLE.
SO THE KITTEN SHOWS HER CLAWS
YOU LITTLE...
NEXT ONE'S THROUGH THE HEART
THAT LITTLE GIRL ALMOST KILLED YOU. DO YOU HAVE ANY WAR INSTINCT AT ALL, BOY?!
FATHER, WAIT! YOU CAN'T SHOOT A LITTLE GIRL IN THE BACK.
SOMEBODY HELP ME.
NNN... AH.
HUH?
WHO'S CALLING ME?
HELP..
PLEASE!


IT'S VERY NICE TO SEE YOU! I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER COME!
HELLO, THERE! HOW ARE YOU?
I MEAN, I DON'T WANT TO COMPLAIN, BUT A MILLION YEARS IS AN AWFULLY LONG TIME TO WAIT.
DOESN'T MATTER
ONLY THE DREAMS MATTER
WELL...
YOU'VE BEEN WAITING HOW LONG?!
YOU MUST MEAN EARTH
I CAN SEE A BEAUTIFUL BLUE PLANET WHEN I CLOSE MY EYES.

AND HE'S GLOWING GOLD.
HE'S JUST A BOY.

GOD, THIS IS ALL SO CONFUSING...
WHAT KIND OF VISION WAS THAT?
HUFF! HAH!
HEY! YOU OKAY?
WHAT HAPPENED TO YOU?
JUST SIT STILL.
AH!
CONSIDERING YOU LOST YOUR COUNTRY AND YOUR MOM...
HEY, V-VAN. GOT A QUESTION FOR YOU.
HELP...
PLEASE...

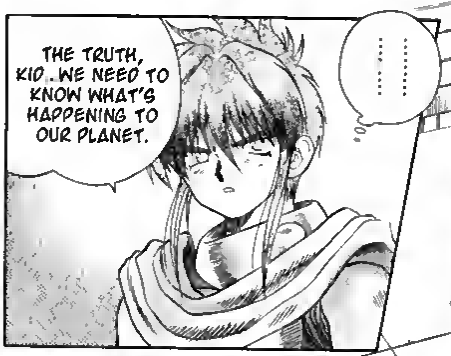
THAT LIGHT!
MAYBE IT'S ALL A DREAM.
THIS AND EVERYTHING ELSE
MAYBE WE'RE JUST A DREAM AND IT'S THE PLANET THAT'S THE DREAMER!
YAAAAGH!

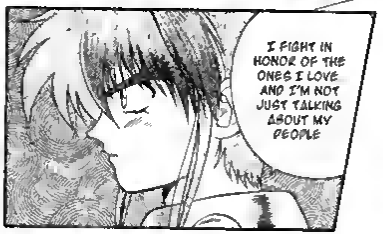
YOU AREN'T FIT TO WIPE ZONGI'S ASS.
GIMME A GOODAMN BREAK.
I I KILLED HIM I DIDN'T WANT TO, BUT I HAD NO CHOICE HE WAS FIGHTING FOR ZAIBACH, BUT HE HATED DORNKIRK AS MUCH AS I DO HE DESERVED BETTER WE ALL DO

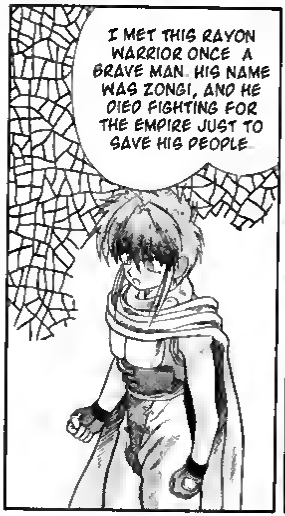
FOCUS! YOU'RE LOSING CONTROL!
HISS

WHAT THE HELL?
HUH?

SHILHA!
HUFF!
HUH!
YOU GET SHOT IN THE SHOULDER AND SEE HOW WELL YOU'RE ABLE TO FOCUS!
UH... HEY, GUYS!


THE TRUTH, KID...WE NEED TO KNOW WHAT'S HAPPENING TO OUR PLANET.
.....
...AND JUST ABOUT EVERYTHING ELSE YOU KNOW AND LOVE, WHAT DO YOU KEEP FIGHTING FOR?


I FIGHT IN HONOR OF THE ONES I LOVE AND I'M NOT JUST TALKING ABOUT MY PEOPLE


I MET THIS RAYON WARRIOR ONCE A BRAVE MAN. HIS NAME WAS ZONGI, AND HE DIED FIGHTING FOR THE EMPIRE JUST TO SAVE HIS PEOPLE

RAYON .

THIS HAS BECOME MUCH BIGGER THAN FANELIA. DORNKIRK HAS MURDERED AND ENSLAVED PEOPLE OF ALL LANDS, FANELIAN, ASTURIAN, FREIDISH, RAYON...

COLT.. SHILHA..
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
HUFF! HFFF!
THERE YOU ARE.
WAIT, SHILHÁ!
NOLAND! THAT GIRL--
SHE'S A SPY FROM THE EMPIRE. FIND HER, NOW!
WOULD YOU LIKE VAN OR ALLEN, SHILHA?
NOW TO SETTLE THINGS.
GOOD WORK.
GOLD AND SILVER ARE HERE.
!!
EASY, COLT.
NNN!
HUH! HUH!

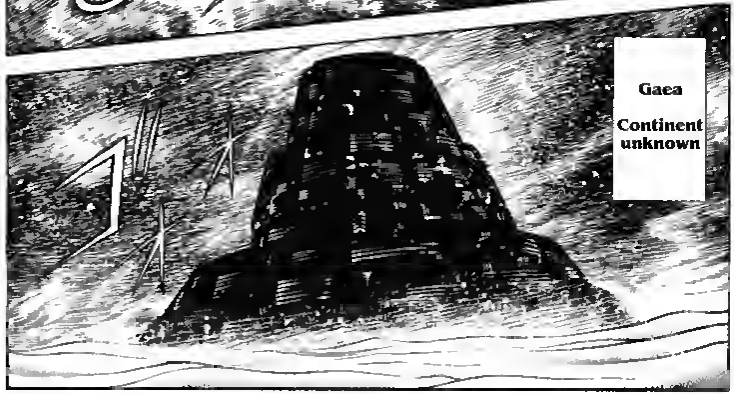
!!
SHIT. THEY'RE OUT TO AVENGE ADMIRAL ZONGI.
ALLEN, WHAT ARE YOU DOING?!
THAT POISON..
I'M FINE, FATHER
AND I HATE TO DISAPPOINT A LADY.
C'MON, VAN! IT'S NOT NICE TO LEAVE A GIRL WAITING.
CAN ESCAFLOWNE COME OUT TO PLAY?
L-LOOK! IT'S THE GOLD AND SILVER KNIGHTS!

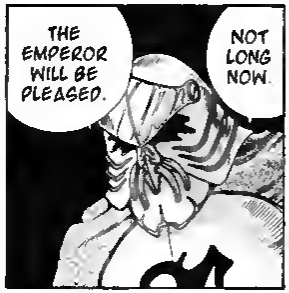
I'M DISAPPOINTED, ALLEN
COLT, GET THIS IDIOT OUT OF MY FACE I'M SO OVER HIM!
RRGH!
!!
MY PLEASURE, SIG!
YOU BROKE MY HEART, ALLEN! YOU REALLY DID!
C'MON! FIGHT ME, YOU SON OF A BITCH!

I KNOW YOU'RE UPSET ABOUT ZONGI, BUT THIS IS THE LAST THING HE WOULD HAVE WANTED FOR YOU!
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU!
SHILHA! COLT!
NOW BE A GOOD BOY AND DIE!
YOU DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT! YOU DON'T KNOW MY UNCLE!
WHY CAN'T YOU SEE THAT?!
DILANDAU MAY HAVE DONE THE DIRTY WORK, BUT IT WAS ZAIBACH THAT DROVE HIM TO IT!
DAMMIT, SHILHA! YOU'RE NOT THE ONLY ONE WHO'S LOST FAMILY! THEY KILLED MY MOTHER!
.....
AAAAGH!

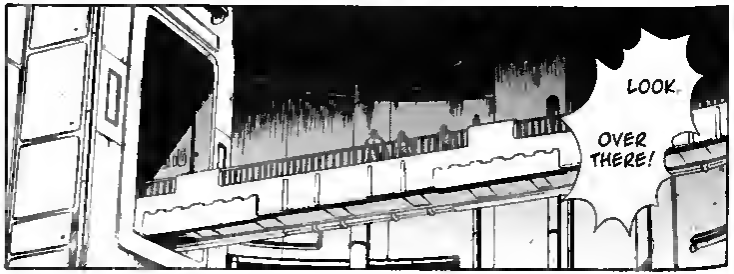
NOT BY CHOICE. STAND DOWN, COLT.
YOU ALMOST KILLED ME.
I'M OKAY, SHILHA. I'M ALL RIGHT.
STAND DOWN!
NEVER!
SHIT!
RAPID STEEL!
ALL RIGHT, GIRLS, I'M DONE TALKING
HUH?
COLT! OH, GOD! COLT!

..THAT THEY WERE DOING WHAT UNCLE ZONGI LACKED THE STRENGTH TO DO HIMSELF.
WE WERE SO CONSUMED WITH HUNTING DOWN VAN AND ALLEN WE NEVER REALIZED ..
OUR FIGHT IS NOT WITH YOU, VAN. IT NEVER WAS.
THEY WERE FIGHTING FOR THEIR PEOPLE. FOR ALL PEOPLE.
Sheesh!
UH.... OKAY.
LET'S GO, SHILHA.
NEXT TIME, WE'LL TRY IT WITHOUT THE POISON.
UH...
THANKS... I THINK.
I GUESS I CAN GO BACK TO LIKING YOU NOW, ALLEN. YOU KNOW, YOU'RE QUITE A KISSER
EMPEROR DORNKIRK DOESN'T EVEN KNOW WE'RE HERE.
WE CAME TO AVENGE OUR UNCLE
DID THE EMPIRE SEND YOU TO SPY ON US?
I THINK I NEED A BREATHER
TIRED? WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU KNOW, I'M TIRED, SHILHA. I THINK I'M DONE
HE'S TOO CAUGHT UP IN HIS CLANG TO ANNIHILATE HUMANITY TO NOTICE MUCH OF ANYTHING
YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN, SHILHA
WE LET OUR ANGER OVER OUR UNCLE BLIND US TO THE TRUTH.
.....


Gaea
Continent unknown


THE EMPEROR WILL BE PLEASED.
NOT LONG NOW.

THIS MARKS OUR FIRST ENTRY INTO THE ARK.


LOOK. OVER THERE!

YOU'RE DUMBER THAN I THOUGHT.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'RE LETTING THEM GO. YOU REALLY BOUGHT ALL OF THAT?

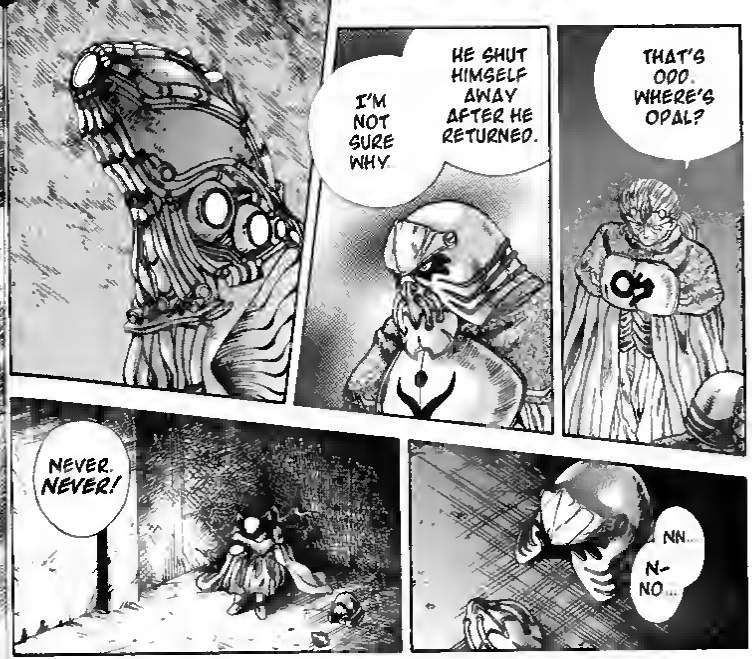
ALLEN, I THINK LUGAU'S RIGHT.

...THEN THAT'S WHERE WE NEED TO GO.
I AGREE. IT'S TIME TO ACT. IF THE KEY TO ALL OF THIS LIES IN PARADAX...

ALL I GOTTA SAY IS...
..IT'D BETTER BE WORTH IT

A MAGNIFICENT ENERGIST, ISN'T IT?
IT'S STILL BEING REFINED.
?
INDEED IT IS AND WHEN IT GROWS TO FILL THAT DOME..
HEH HEH...
PREPARE FOR US, BLUE STAR.

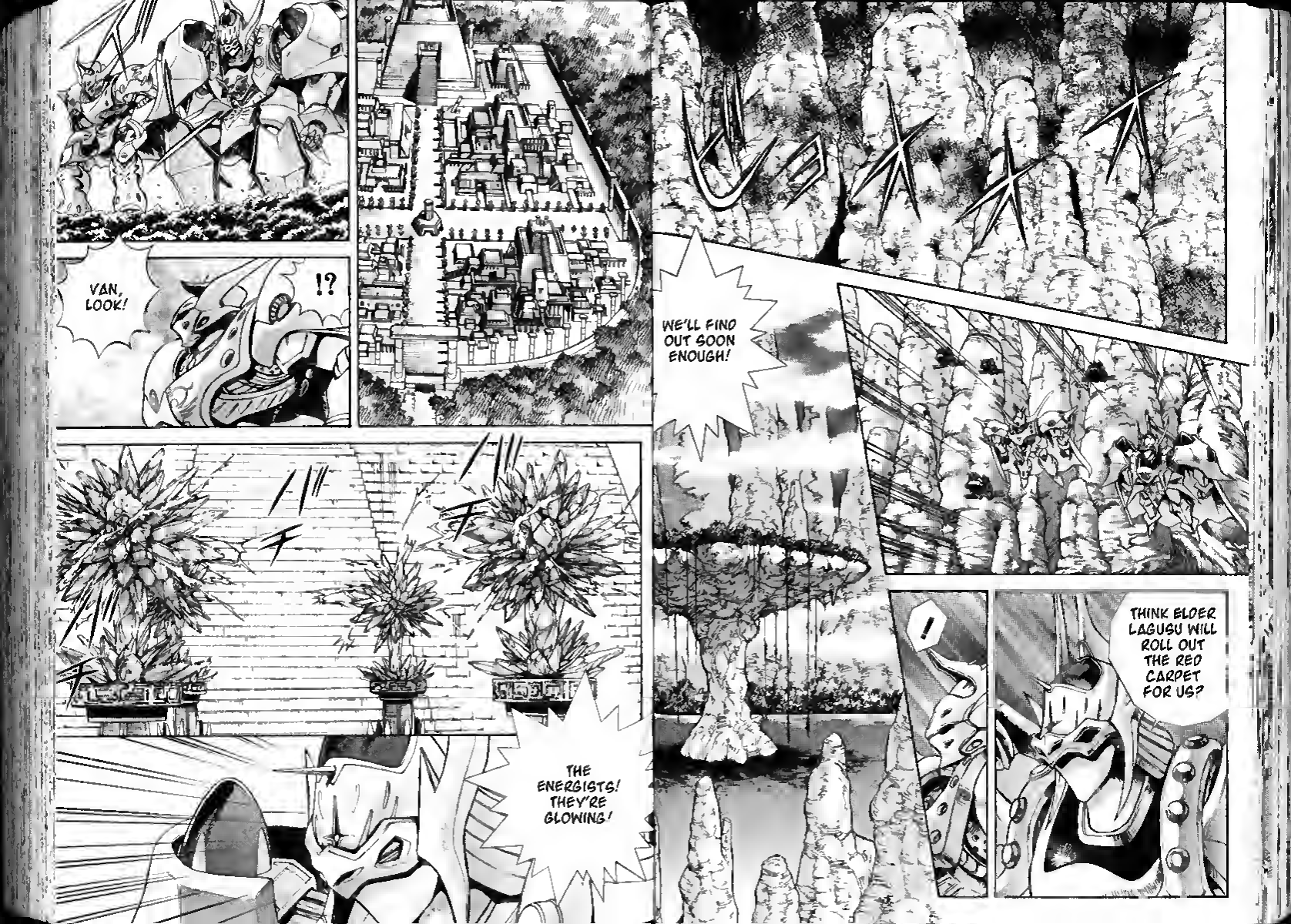
VISION 28:
UNTO THE ARK



I STILL CAN'T BELIEVE IT.
YOU'RE REALLY GOING FOR THE ARK...?
LAGUSU COULD PROBABLY HELP US.
UBOO'S NOT THE PROBLEM, IT'S THE MOUNTAIN RANGE BEYOND IT.
UNLESS WE WANT TO DIE BEFORE WE'VE STARTED..
RAH DRICK SURROUNDS PARADAX.
ALL SET TO GO, SIR
GOOD.
WHAT IS IT?
I CAN'T SHAKE THE FEELING... ...THAT SOMETHING'S NOT RIGHT HERE
THAT BOTHERS ME.
ZAIBACH WOULDN'T DARE PASS THROUGH UBOO.
WHICH WOULD INDICATE THAT THEY HAVE THEIR OWN SECRET ROUTE TO PARADAX.
WE'VE BEEN TO UBOO BEFORE.
...WE MUST PASS THROUGH UBOO.

WELL, WHAT ABOUT A SCOUT?
TOO RISKY.
THEN I'LL JOIN YOU. REST EASY, SIR.
FINE. FIFTH SQUADRON, YOU'LL ACCOMPANY ME AND DILANDAU TO ZAIBACH!
EVERYONE ELSE, TO UBOO!
HEY, HOLD ON!
WE'LL JOIN YOU AT UBOO, NOLAND. RELAX.
HEY, DILANDAU
COME BACK IN ONE PIECE, OKAY?

I GUESS EFFORT'S WORTH SOMETHING.
BUT HE'S TRYING. EVEN I CAN SEE THAT.
I'LL NEVER FORGIVE THAT SON OF A BITCH.
I HOPE SO.
GO IN PEACE AND RETURN.
YOU HAVE OUR PRAYERS.
THIS IS CURRENTLY THE ONLY PLACE I CAN COME BACK TO.
THANKS FOR THE CONCERN.
HEH. CUTE
ARE YOU OKAY?


VAN, LOOK!
!?
WE'LL FIND OUT SOON ENOUGH!
THINK ELDER LAGUSU WILL ROLL OUT THE RED CARPET FOR US?
!
THE ENERGISTS! THEY'RE GLOWING!

VAN, IT'S GOOD TO SEE YOU
I'M SURE YOU'RE FEELING IT AS WELL, DAUGHTER.
YES.
MY ARM IS NO EXCEPTION
THE ENERGISTS ARE REACTING TO WIDESPREAD DANGER SIGNALS
WHAT'S GOING ON, LAGUSU?

THIS DOESN'T LOOK GOOD.
OH, NO!
.....!?
WE'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU

WATCH THE WATER'S SURFACE.
I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS
THAT'D BETTER BE WHAT YOU'RE WATCHING, OLD MAN
I need a suit
AH!

DOES THIS HAVE TO DO WITH THE ARK?
THIS WORLD WILL SOON FALL PREY TO A GREAT EVIL.

BATHE IN THE SPRING.
ITS POWER MAY ASSIST YOU IN RECEIVING THE VISION.
HITOMI?!
AAH!
I THINK YOUR SPIRIT PARTNER WANTS TO TALK
WHAT WAS... THAT?!

WHERE DID ALL THAT COME FROM?!
QUIET, IT'S THE VISION!

ACCORDING TO LEGEND THEY CAME TO OUR WORLD FROM THE BLUE STAR LONG AGO.
SAY AGAIN?
THAT'S PROBABLY THE HOME OF THE ANCIENTS.
IT'S LIKE WE'RE... INSIDE HITOMI'S HEAD.

WHAT THE HELL?!
HUZZAH!
HUZZAH!
Te nah dawani seh pah!
NOW WHERE ARE WE?
IT CAN'T BE!
THIS IS THE SACRED PLANET GAEA?!
THEY MUST BE REFERRING TO THIS WORLD
I RECOGNIZE THAT GIRL!
CHECK IT OUT!

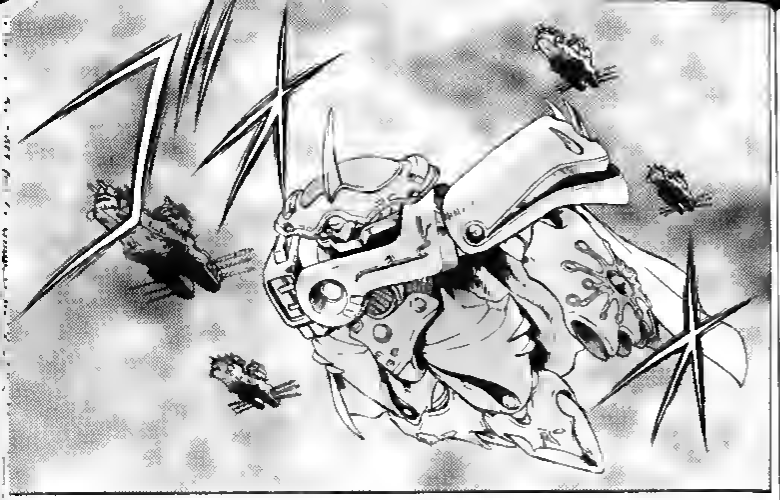
GET BACK IN THE ARK. IT'S TOO DANGEROUS HERE!
YES, SIR!
IF THAT'S THE ARK...
...THEN THIS MUST BE THE UNKNOWN CONTINENT!
THERE'S NOTHING SACRED ABOUT THIS PLACE.

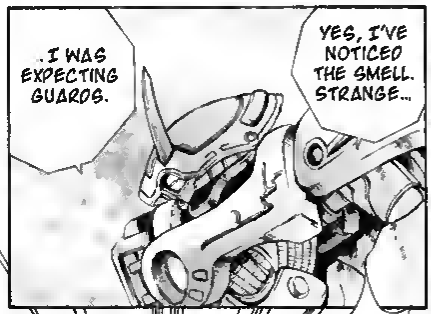
WHAT IS IT?
THIS WHOLE THING WAS A MISTAKE.
I CAN FEEL ITS PAIN
THIS WORLD IS CRYING OUT.
NO MATTER HOW GREAT THE TASK NO MATTER HOW MANY MILLENNIA MUST COME TO PASS
...ALL OF US MUST DO WHATEVER IT TAKES TO HEAL THIS PLANET.
YOU MAY BE RIGHT.
.....

HITOMI!
I GUESS THAT'S IT.
SHE TOLD ME...
splash
splash
FANELIA, DO YOU THINK A WORLD CAN DREAM?
THAT GIRL TOLD ME...
SHE WANTS ME TO END GAEA'S PAIN!
...TO STOP THE ARK
MAYBE WE CAN RETURN TO EARTH TOGETHER AS WE SLEEP...
I'VE HEARD THAT ALL PEOPLE ARE SUB-CONSCIOUSLY CONNECTED.
MAYBE.

SO EVERYTHING STARTED IN PARADAX.
AND I GET THE FEELING THAT'S WHERE ALL THIS IS GOING TO END.
ANY CLUE HOW WE CAN GET THERE ALIVE?
SO THAT'S YOUR DECISION?
YOU'RE GOING TO STOP THE ARK?
WE'LL JUKE AS HELL TRY.

AND UBOO WILL ASSIST YOU.
THANK YA KINDLY.
I WANT TO SEE YOUR WISH COME TRUE.
WAIT FOR ME... WHEREVER YOU ARE.
READY TO MOVE, HITOMI?

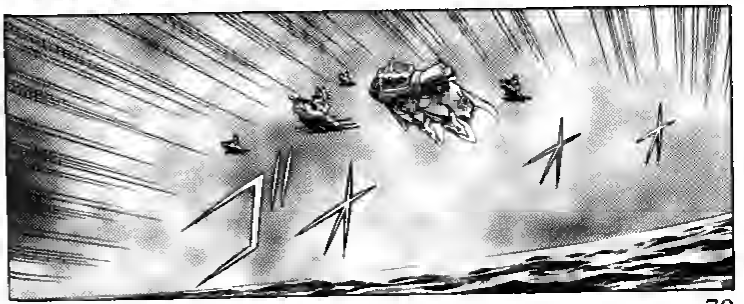



..I WAS EXPECTING GUARDS.
YES, I'VE NOTICED THE SMELL. STRANGE..

WE'RE APPROACHING ZAIBACH, DILANDAU.

WHAT?!
!!

IT'S TIME FOR US TO FINISH THIS!



THE ZAIBACH EMPIRE IS GONE!

SIR, WHAT DOES THIS MEAN?
HA HA HA HA!
HEH, HEH, HEH...
YES...OF COURSE! I KNEW IT!
HA HA HA HA HA!
AAAAAGH!
WE'RE ONLY HERE TO SCOUT.
STAY BACK, YEAH?
UH, DILANDAU?

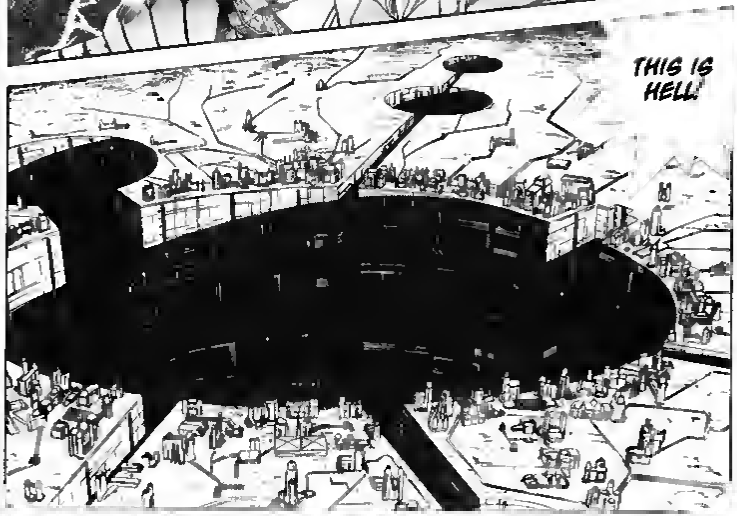
I TRUSTED YOU, YOU TRAITOR!
YOU MURDEROUS BASTARD! THOSE MEN TRUSTED YOU!
YOU SPEAK NOTHING BUT LIES!
WHEN EXACTLY DID I CLAIM TO BE YOUR ALLY, LUGAU?
ARGOON?
WHAT IS THIS TREACHERY, DILANDAU?!
SWEET MOTHER!

THE ENGINE'S FAILING, SIR!
ASSUME CRASH POSITIONS!
PATHETIC.

BUT WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO D-DO NOW?
Hyuk!
Y-YOU KNEW ALL ABOUT...THEIR T-TUNNEL..TO PARADAX

!!
CRAK
SO Y-YOU KNEW, DILANDAU.

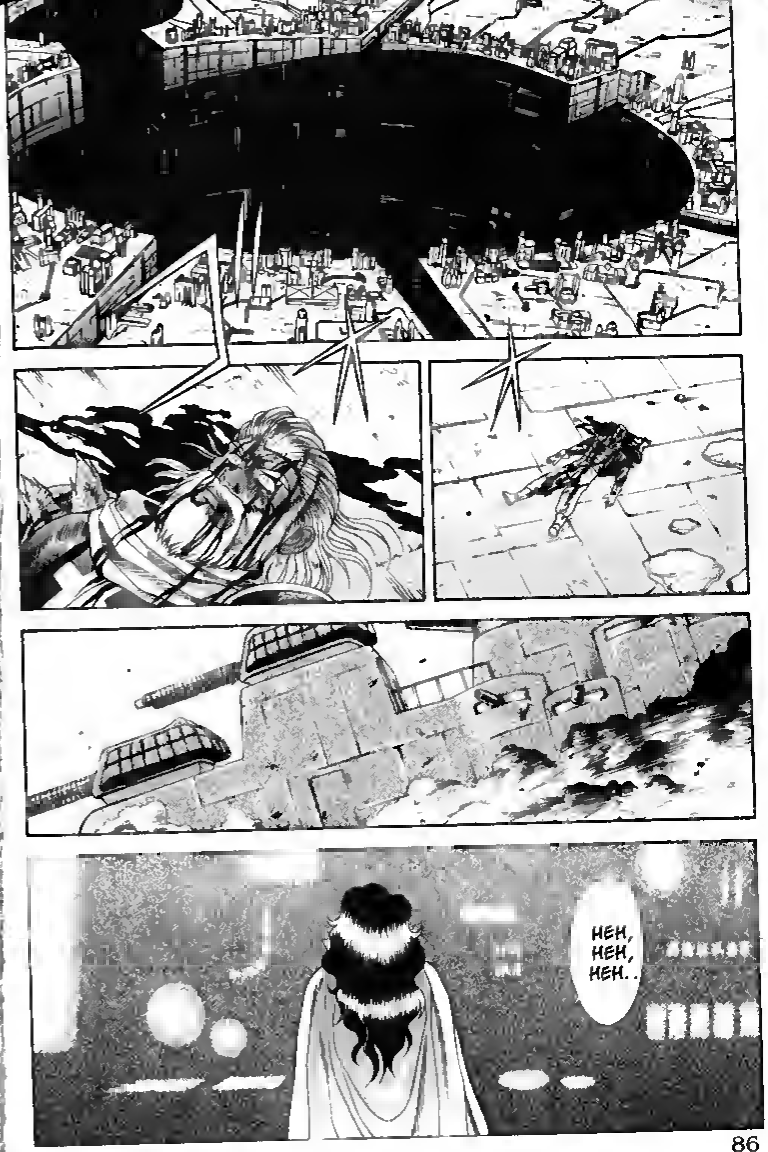
VISION 29:
ABANDONED PARADISE



I'LL SEE YOU SOON
OH, AND PRINCE VAN?
YOU THINK HE'S UP TO SOMETHING?
THAT WAS ODD.
I'M GONNA TRY TO BELIEVE HIM.
BESIDES, WE'VE GOT BIGGER FISH TO FRY.

REALLY? SHOW IT.
WE'RE RECEIVING A MESSAGE FROM DILANDAU.
WHERE'S MR. LUGAU?
WE FOUND ZAIBACH'S ROUTE TO THE ARK.
bzz
bzz!
GOOD WORK.
WE'RE IN DANGEROUS TERRITORY, BUT THE SCOUTING TEAM WILL PROGRESS AS FAR AS POSSIBLE.
HE'S GONE ON AHEAD.

THE ARK IS NEARLY IN MY GRASP.
OH, I CAN'T WAIT TO SEE THE LOOK ON YOUR FACE, PRINCE VAN.
HA HA HA HA HA !!!

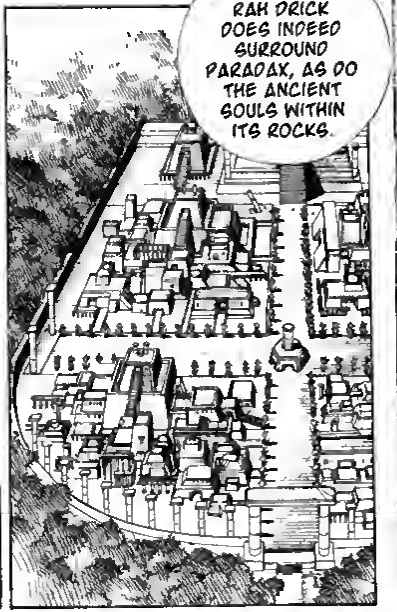

HEH, HEH, HEH..

PLEASE, PLEASE LET US THROUGH!
C'MON, RAH DRICK!

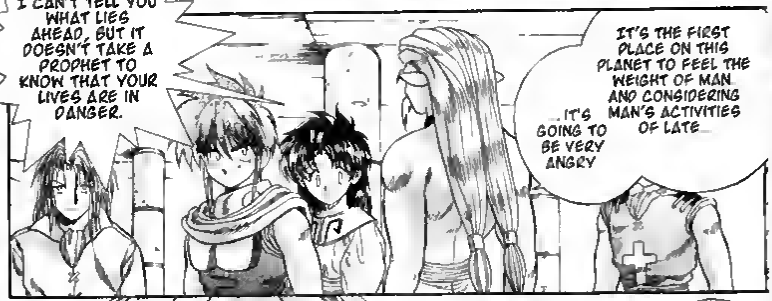
PROTECT OUR GAEA FROM DESTRUCTION!
THIS WILL BE THE FINAL BATTLE FOR OUR PLANET.

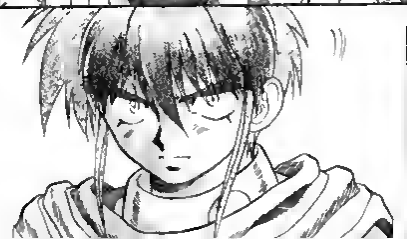
Jen Horos Mu Fala Aros. .

THANK YOU, LAGUSU.
I'LL USE MY TELEPATHY TO GAIN YOU SAFE PASSAGE.


RAH DRICK DOES INDEED SURROUND PARADAX, AS DO THE ANCIENT SOULS WITHIN ITS ROCKS.

JUST BE WARY OF THE UNKNOWN CONTINENT, PRINCE.

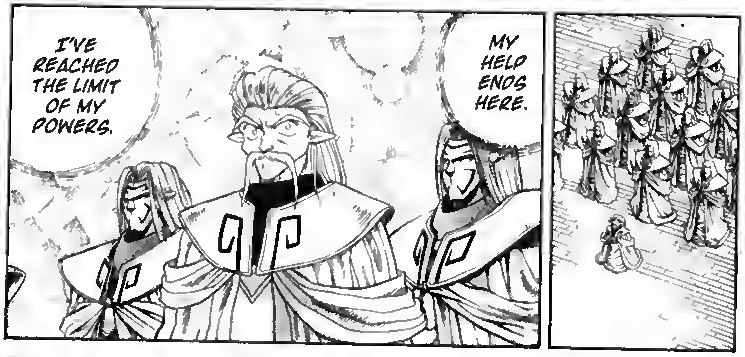

I CAN'T TELL YOU WHAT LIES AHEAD, BUT IT DOESN'T TAKE A PROPHET TO KNOW THAT YOUR LIVES ARE IN DANGER.
IT'S THE FIRST PLACE ON THIS PLANET TO FEEL THE WEIGHT OF MAN AND CONSIDERING MAN'S ACTIVITIES OF LATE...
...IT'S GOING TO BE VERY ANGRY

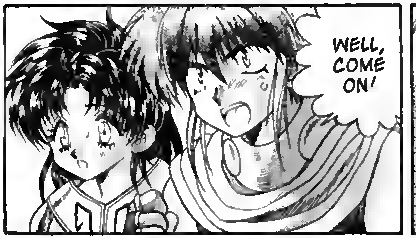


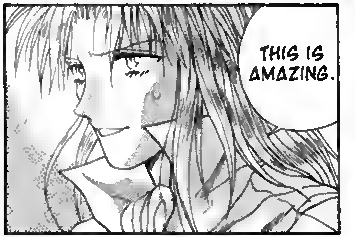
PLEASE, BE CAREFUL.

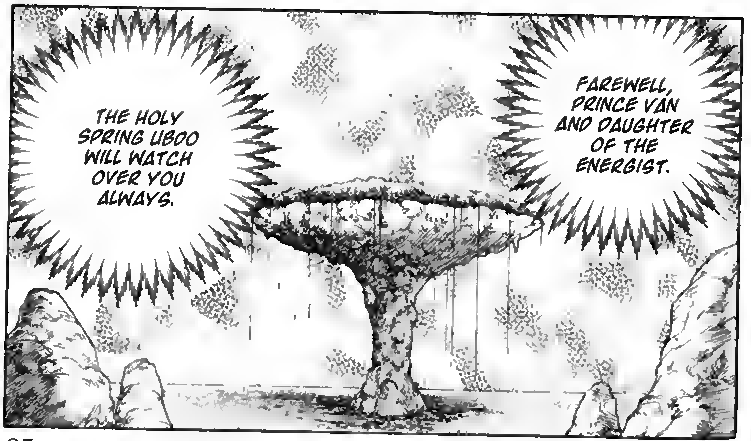
LOOK AT THAT!
THAT'S A WELCOME IF I EVER SAW ONE.

AT LEAST, THAT'S THE PLAN.
WE'RE COMING BACK FROM THIS ALIVE.

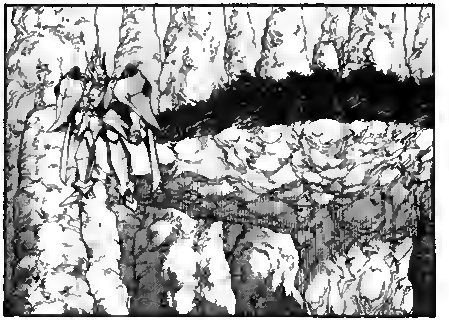

I'VE REACHED THE LIMIT OF MY POWERS.
MY HELP ENDS HERE.


WELL, COME ON!


THIS IS AMAZING.


THE HOLY SPRING UBOO WILL WATCH OVER YOU ALWAYS.
FAREWELL, PRINCE VAN AND DAUGHTER OF THE ENERGIST.

SO LONG, POPS.

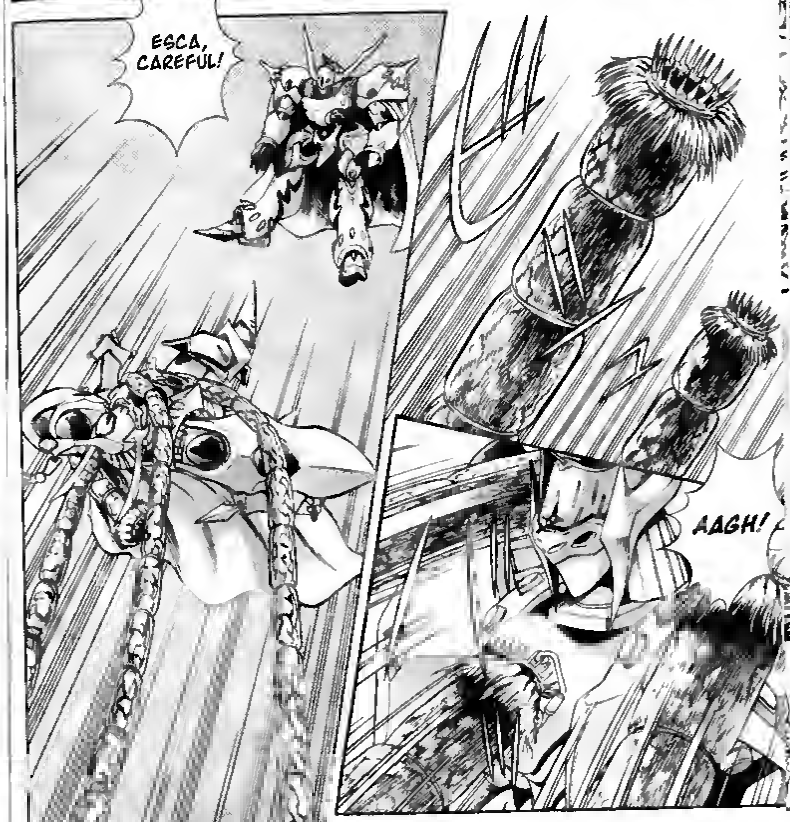


MY GOD...
!!
WE'RE APPROACHING THE END OF RAH DRICK.
WOULD ANYONE MIND TELLING ME...
...EXACTLY WHAT THE HELL THOSE ARE SUPPOSED TO BE?!
RIGHT.
I THINK THEY PROTECT UBDO.
DORNKIRK SAID UBDO IS AN ANCIENT GRAVEYARD.
HE MUST HAVE MEANT ALL THE SPIRITS IN RAH DRICK.
I SUPPOSE WE'RE ABOUT TO FIND OUT...
BUT PROTECT UBDO FROM WHAT?

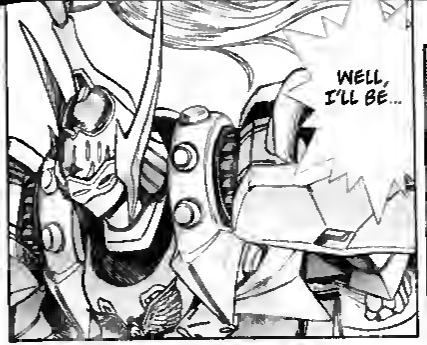
THIS IS PARADAX?!
HOW'RE WE GONNA...
SKREEEE!!!

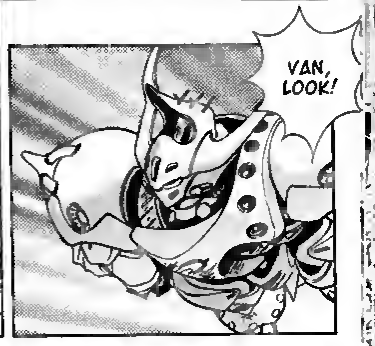
SHIT! WE'RE SINKING!
NOT FOR LONG!
SKREEE!

LAGUSU WASN'T JOKING ABOUT PARADAX BEING PISSED AT US
RAH DRICK WASN'T JUST PROTECTING UBDO, IT WAS PROTECTING ALL OF GAEA!


ESCA, CAREFUL!
AAGH!

A TOWN?
I THINK THERE'S A...TOWN AHEAD.
HUH?
I'M PRETTY SURE PEOPLE CAN'T LIVE HERE, HITOMI.
I KNOW, BUT...
JUST TRUST ME.
NGH! I'M STUCK!
PULL UP, VAN. WE'RE FLYING FORWARD AT FULL SPEED!
GOOD CALL.
YEESH.
AND I THOUGHT DORNKIRK WAS UGLY


WELL, I'LL BE...


VAN, LOOK!

JUST KEEP YOUR EYES OPEN.
BIG SURPRISE THERE.
IT'S EMPTY.

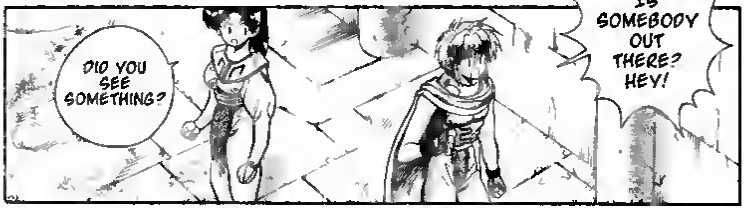
IT HAS TO BE ONE OF THE ANCIENT CITIES.
DAMN, HITOMI. REMIND ME TO NEVER QUESTION YOU.

ARE YOU GODS?

LOOKIT 'EM ALL.
CAN ANY OF YOU TELL US ABOUT THE ARK?

HUH?

THE AIR IS HEAVY HERE.
!!


DID YOU SEE SOMETHING?
IS SOMEBODY OUT THERE? HEY!

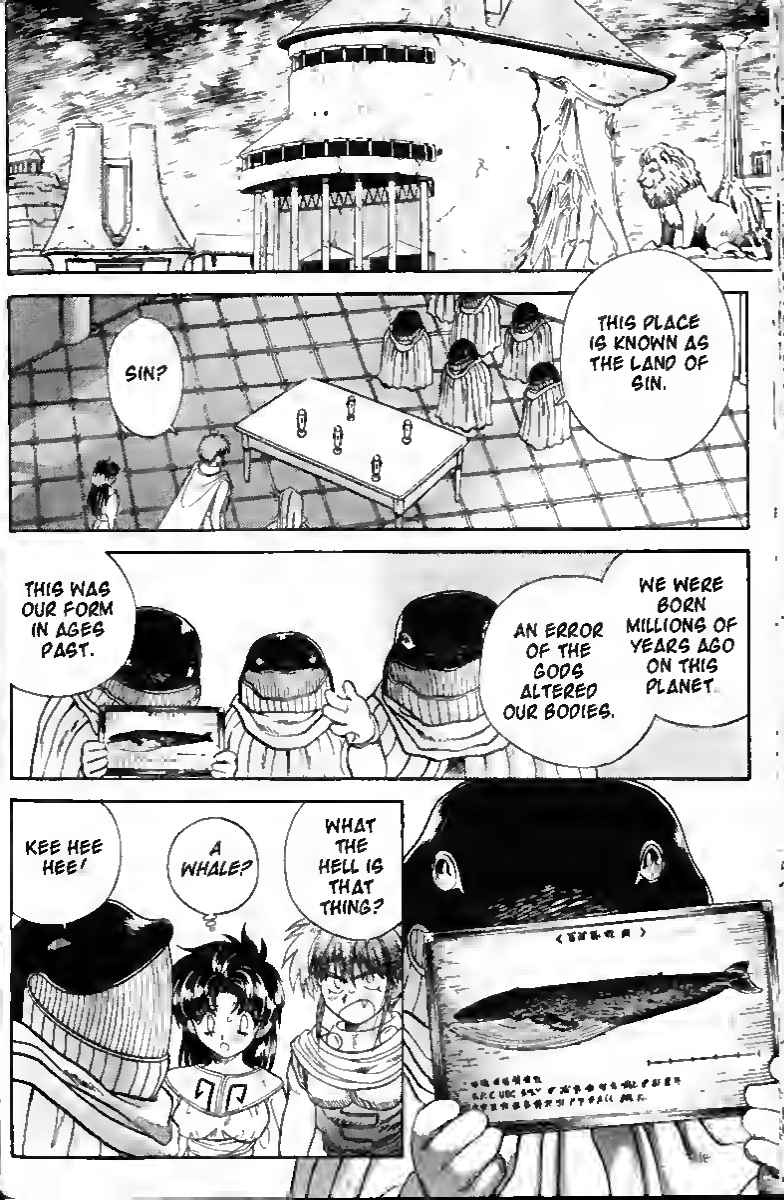
SOMEONE'S PLAYING GAMES WITH US.

EASY, JEEZ.
JUST SHOW YOURSELVES! I'M NOT IN THE GOODAMN MOOD!

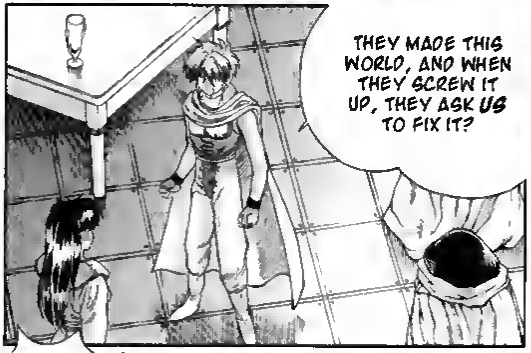
YEEAHH,
HUH HUH HUH.
UM. WE'RE NOT GODS, SORRY.
GAEA'S IN TROUBLE
WE'RE TRYING TO PROTECT IT, IF WE CAN.

IT HAS ALREADY BEEN DECIDED. THIS PLANET IS TO DIE
IT'S NOT FUNNY, FREAKS!
KEE!
KEH KEH!
KEH.
WE CAN TALK INSIDE.
WHAT'S THAT MEAN?!
THE SPACE-TIME STORMS OUT HERE CAN DRIVE YOU MAD
KOO HOO HOO!
KEH KEH.
YOU FIRST.
.....

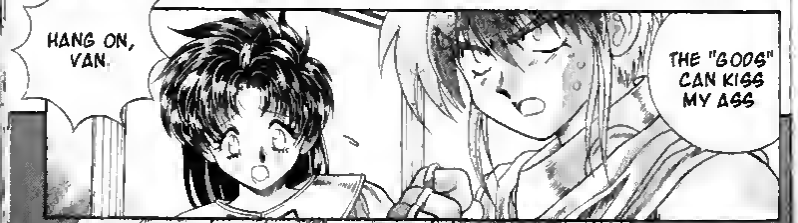
GAEA WAS ALSO A MISTAKE.
THIS PLANET SUFFERS AS WE DO.
!!
IT IS INEVITABLE IT CANNOT BE CHANGED.
THAT'S WHY IT WILL DIE.
KWA! HA HA!
BUT IT'S TRUE. ALL TRUE.
ALL RIGHT, CUT THE CRAP.


SIN?
THIS PLACE IS KNOWN AS THE LAND OF SIN.
THIS WAS OUR FORM IN AGES PAST.
AN ERROR OF THE GODS ALTERED OUR BODIES.
WE WERE BORN MILLIONS OF YEARS AGO ON THIS PLANET.
KEE HEE HEE!
A WHALE?
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT THING?

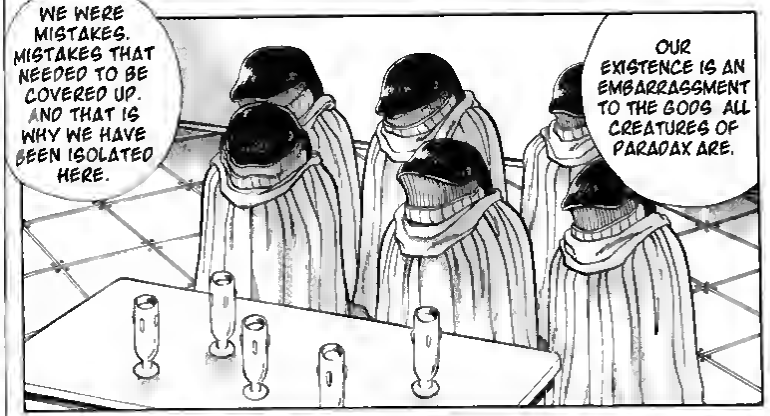
A BUNCH OF SELFISH CREATORS?
SO THAT'S ALL THERE IS TO IT?


THEY MADE THIS WORLD, AND WHEN THEY SCREW IT UP, THEY ASK US TO FIX IT?

VAN..


HANG ON, VAN.
THE "GODS" CAN KISS MY ASS

WE'RE PEOPLE, HITOMI. NOT GODDAMN TOYS!


WE WERE MISTAKES. MISTAKES THAT NEEDED TO BE COVERED UP. AND THAT IS WHY WE HAVE BEEN ISOLATED HERE.
OUR EXISTENCE IS AN EMBARRASSMENT TO THE GODS. ALL CREATURES OF PARADAX ARE.

.....

YOU WILL ALSO BE FORGOTTEN IN TIME. ABANDONED BY THE PEOPLE AS GAEA WAS ABANDONED BY THE GODS.
THE OUTSIDE WORLD DOESN'T KNOW OF OUR EXISTENCE.

.....
THEY ASKED US TO PROTECT THIS PLANET!
THE GODS HAVEN'T ABANDONED GAEA!

..THEN WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE?
I DON'T GET IT. IF OUR PLANET'S DOOMED TO DIE...
VAN, WAIT!
WHY BOTHER WITH ANY OF THIS?!
MY LOVE OF GAEA IS THE ONLY THING THAT KEEPS ME GOING.
I LOST MY PARENTS AND MY COUNTRY.
IT'S ALL THAT I HAVE!
POKER, ALLEN, SHIAN... I KEEP LIVING BECAUSE I LOVE THEM!
HUH!
HAH!
HAH!
HOW COULD THEY DO THAT?!
THEY'VE GIVEN UP.
WE'VE BEEN FORSAKEN, HITOMI. WE'VE BEEN LEFT TO WITHER AND DIE.
HUFF!
HUFF!
I DON'T KNOW.

I KNOW HUMANS CAN BE UNFAIR AND SELFISH.
MY PEOPLE AREN'T GODS, THEY'RE JUST TRYING TO GET BY.
BUT I WON'T MAKE EXCUSES. FOR THEM OR FOR MYSELF.
I JUST...
NO, WAIT!
DON'T BOTHER. IT DOESN'T MATTER.
HITOMI, YOU'RE FROM THE PLANET OF THE ANCIENTS.
OH, GOD.
AND YET YOU HAD NO MEMORY OF US. NONE OF YOUR PEOPLE EVEN KNOW WE EXIST.
ALL THIS HAPPENED SO LONG AGO.
VAN, I'M SORRY
.....

I LOVE ALLEN. I LOVE SHIAN!
AND I..
VAN, I LOVE THEM TOO!
drip
!
I.. I LOVE...
YOU WHAT?

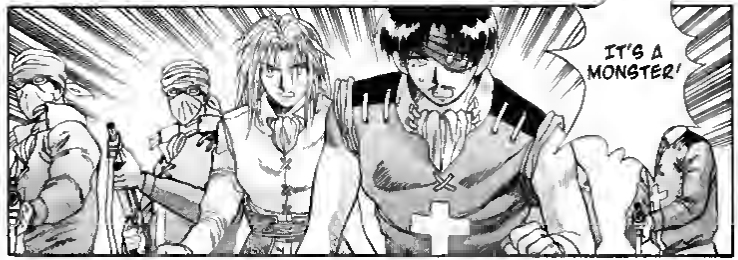
BUT MAYBE...
...MAYBE IT WAS JUST WHAT I NEEDED. I LOVE YOU TOO, HITOMI.
YOU DO?
OMIGOD! OMIGOD! OMIGOD!
I-I'M SORRY!
UM, WHAT WAS THAT?
NO.
OH, UH...NOT WHAT YOU WERE EXPECTING?
HUH?
OH, VAN.
WE ALL DO. YOU'RE OUR FRIEND WHATEVER YOUR ANCESTORS MIGHT HAVE DONE. IT'S IN THE PAST. THIS FIGHT IS FOR THE PEOPLE OF TODAY.
THE ARK?
YOU CAN'T GO THERE.

VISION 30:
THE DEMON AWAKES
!!
HE IS THERE
HE?
WHAT?
HE COMES!
GOOD LORD! GET DOWN!

LEAVE THIS LAND
IT IS NOT FOR YOU!

THIS IS THE SACRED AREA OF THE GODS.

IT CAN TALK?


IT'S A MONSTER!

IT IS NOT FOR YOU TO TREAD ON.

...THE ENFORCER of FATE.
I AM...

WHAT WAS THAT?

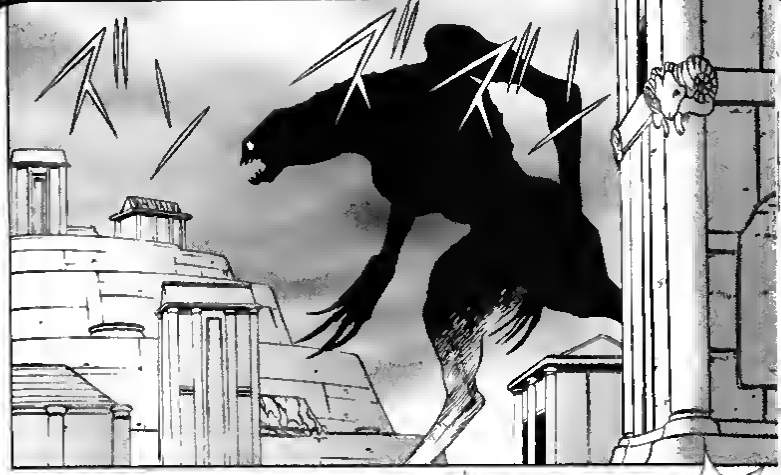
I WANT ANSWERS AND I WANT THEM FAST.

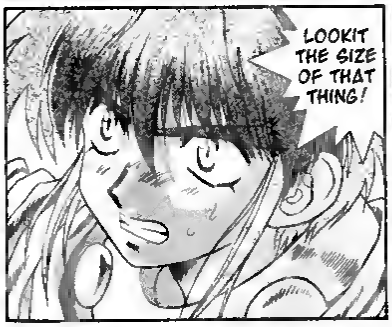
WELL?!
ANSWER HIM!
くわっ
くわっ

THAT THING USED TO BE AN ANCIENT?
A GOD?!

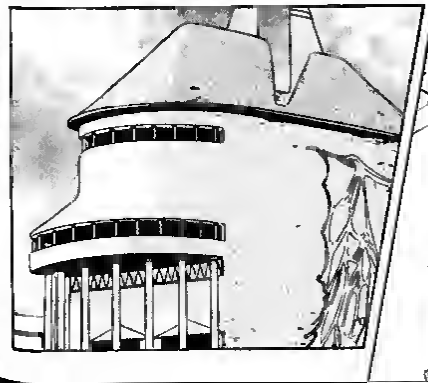
IT WAS ONCE A DESCENDANT OF THE GODS
BUT TIME HAS CORRUPTED IT, AND NOW IT, TOO, IS A MISTAKE.

……



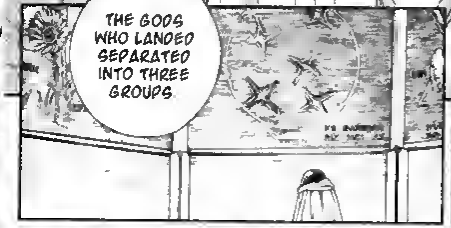

LOOKIT THE SIZE OF THAT THING!

DAMN!
VAN!!



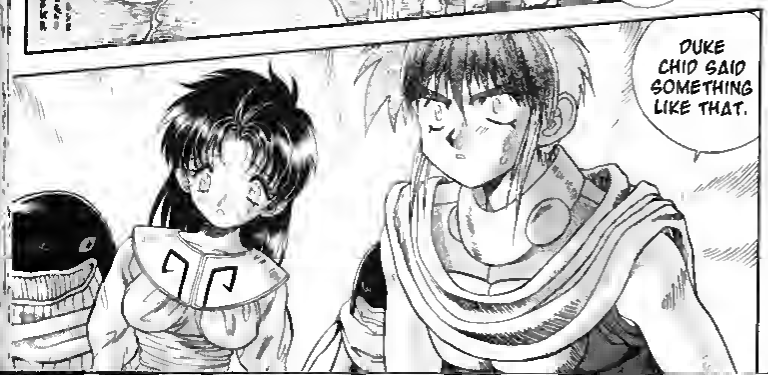
WE'VE GOTTA GET BACK TO ALLEN.

THE HISTORY OF THE GODS IS WRITTEN HERE.

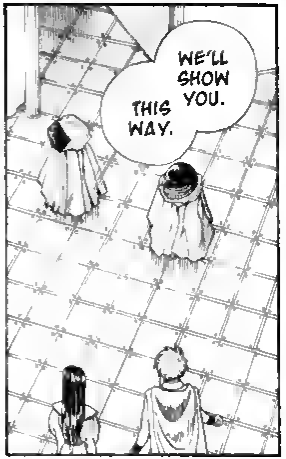

THE GODS WHO LANDED SEPARATED INTO THREE GROUPS.

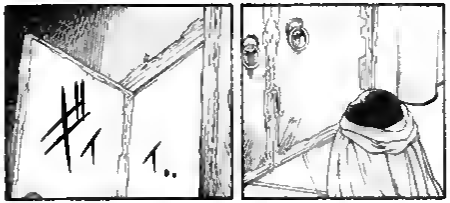
WHAT DOES IT SAY?

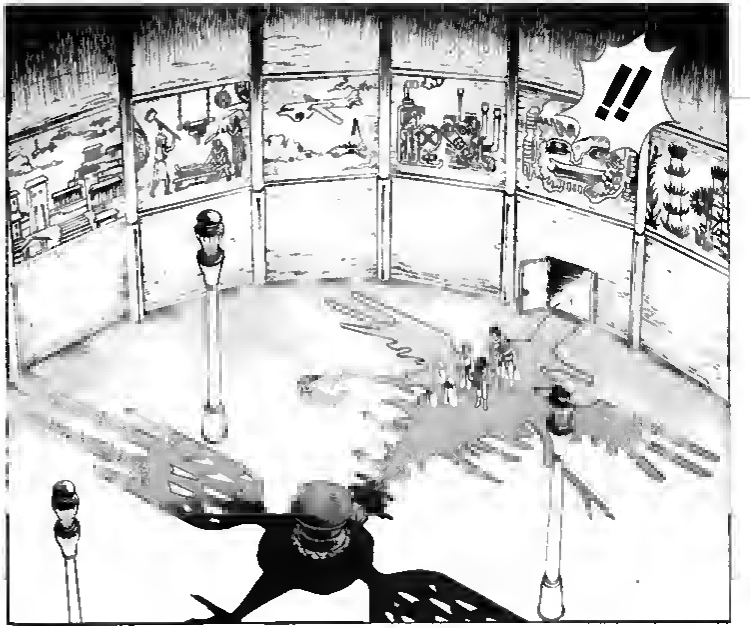
THE REST WENT TO THE SHRINE.
SOME WENT TO LAND, OTHERS TO U--DO.


DUKE CHID SAID SOMETHING LIKE THAT.

shff
shff


WE'LL SHOW YOU.
THIS WAY.

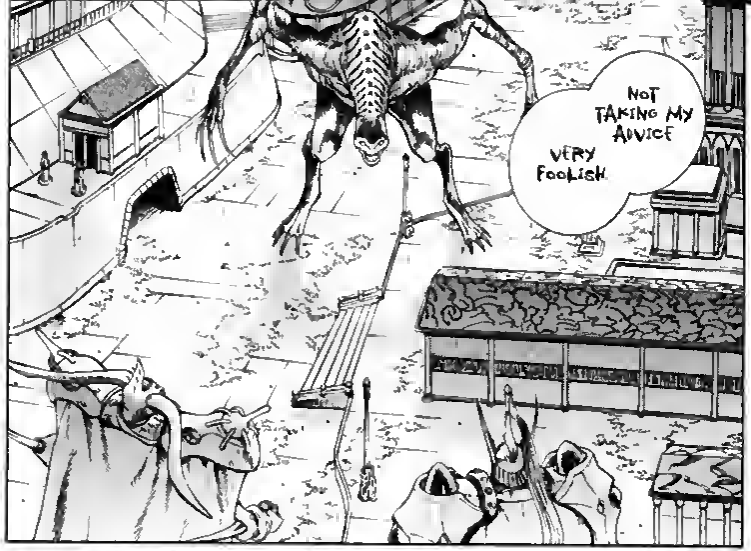



!!

THE SHRINE OF THE GODS IS THE ARK.
TO PROTECT THE ARK, ONE GOD STAYED BEHIND.
...INTO THAT OF A MONSTER
OVER MILLIONS OF YEARS, THE SPACE-TIME STORMS TWISTED HIS FORM...
WHO'S THIS?
THAT'S HIM.
WHAT'S WRONG, HITOMI?
.....
HE'S THE GOD WHO STAYED WITHIN THE ARK
I SAW HIM IN MY VISION
HELP ME!
PLEASE!
...I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER COME!
I...
THAT BOY WAS AN ANCIENT. THE ONE THEY LEFT BEHIND!

WHEN THIS IS OVER, YOU CAN COME WITH US IF YOU WANT.
YOU'RE JUST DIFFERENT.
I DON'T THINK YOU'RE SINFUL OR ANYTHING.
THANK YOU.
.....
TOO BAD THE LITTLE GUYS AREN'T THE PROBLEM RIGHT NOW.

STILL GOING TO THE ARK?
UM, HEY.
IMPOSSIBLE. HE WON'T LET YOU.
WELL...
..WE'LL JUST HAVE TO PERSUADE HIM THEN, WON'T WE?


NOT TAKING MY ADVICE
VERY FOOLISH

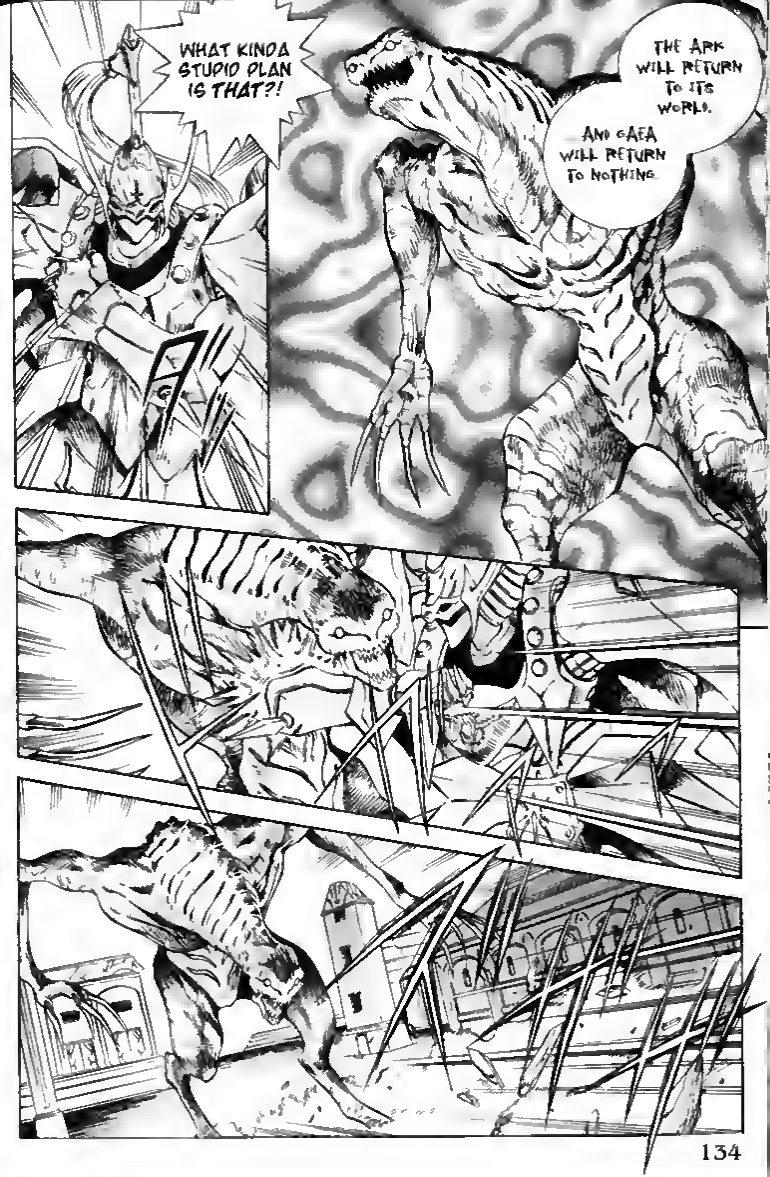
IT'S ABOUT TO ABANDON GAEA AND LEAVE FOR THE PHANTOM PLANET!
WHY ARE YOU PROTECTING THE ARK?

I INTEND TO HELP IT RETURN TO EARTH
I KNOW THAT
WHAT?!

YEAH
READY, VAN?

aaaaaa!
aaaa...

aaaaaa!
NO TURNING BACK!


WHAT KINDA STUPID PLAN IS THAT?!
THE ARK WILL RETURN TO ITS WORLD.
AND GAEA WILL RETURN TO NOTHING.

ESCA, POWER UP!
HE'S FAST!
ARGH!

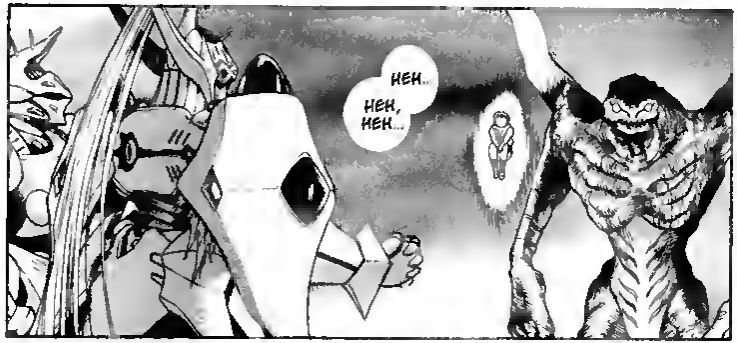
HE'S GOT WINGS?!
NO THESE ARE NOT FOR FLYING
DAMN!
OOO
MY PLEASURE!
YOUR TURN, ALLEN
YOU WILL NOT WIN THIS

THIS MIGHT BE IT.
WE'RE LOSING POWER!
DEVICES ABNORMAL!
IT WILL BRING FORTH THE SPACE-TIME STORM.
WHAT?!
VAN, WE CANNOT SURVIVE THIS!
AAAAGH!
HRGH!
PREPARE FOR DEATH, MORTALS.
NO! WE CAN'T!
VAN, THAT STORM WILL TEAR US APART! WE MUST FLEE!
C'MON!

THE STORM WILL ABSORB THE ENERGIST WAVE.
NO ONE CAN STOP THE ARK ANYMORE.
IT'S YOU!
WHAT THE HELL?!

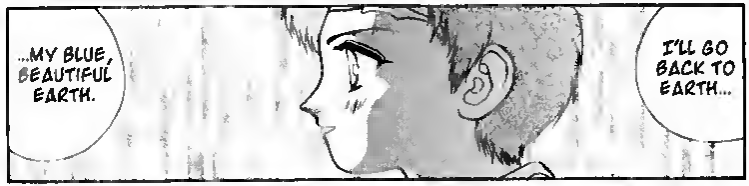
THE STORM WILL ONLY CONTINUE TO DESCEND.
IT'S FUTILE.
GET DOWN, VAN!
IF I'M DYING, I'M TAKING YOU WITH ME!
YOU CAN'T WIN.
NO.
?!

.....
WHO ARE YOU?!
FOR A BRAT, YOU SURE SEEM TO KNOW A LOT!


HEH..
HEH, HEH...

YOU KNOW ME, BOY
YOU KNOW ME

NO ONE UNDERSTANDS HOW I FEEL.
THEY ALL DESERTED ME, YOU KNOW. FANELIA, FREID...AND EVEN ESCAFLOWNE.


...MY BLUE, BEAUTIFUL EARTH.
I'LL GO BACK TO EARTH...

NO THIS MONSTER HAS NO MIND IT'S DRIVEN BY OLD MEMORIES. NOTHING MORE

ARE YOU THE ONE CONTROLLING THE MONSTER?

OH, HOW I'VE LONGED TO RETURN HOME.

THREE HUNDRED YEARS AGO...
...THE EMPIRE FOUND THE ENTRANCE TO THE ARK WHILE DRILLING FOR SUPER FUEL.
!!
I AM DORNKIRK.
I WILL RETURN TO EARTH. MY BEAUTIFUL EARTH!
I'VE BEEN WAITING.
IN DOING SO, THEY RELEASED ME.
WHY WON'T ANYONE COME?
I AM DORNKIRK'S TRUE ASTRAL BODY.
THAT'S JUST A HOLOGRAM.
BUT YOU'RE A... DORNKIRK'S AN OLD MAN!

NO, ESCAFLOWNE!
THE MOMENT I HAVE YEARNED FOR HAS ARRIVED, AND YOU WILL NOT STAND IN MY WAY!
SHYAAA!
AAAGH!
A-ALLEN?
THE STORM'S GETTING STRONGER!

I THINK THAT SHE ALONE..
IT MUST BE ESCAFLOWNE
. HAS THE POWER TO SAVE THIS WORLD.
AGH!
ALLEN, DAMMIT!
YOU'RE GONNA DIE UP THERE! NOW GET OFF!!
YOU HAVE TO BE THE ONES TO REACH THE ARK!
WE NEED YOU TWO
SCHERAZADE CAN'T TAKE THAT!
ALLEN, WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING?!

IT HAS SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE FATE OF ESCAFLOWNE
I'VE SEEN THAT DRAGON BEFORE!

THAT MUST BE WHAT THE VISION MEANS.
YOUR GOD HAS A SECRET.
HUH?

A SECRET...
MOTHER SAID THAT BEFORE SHE DIED!
SHE WILL SHOW HER TRUE SELF.
ESCAFLOWNE HAS ANOTHER FORM.

IT IS FATE.
I AM MERELY THE ENFORCER OF THAT FATE
HE WILL DIE AND YOU WILL JOIN HIM. ALL of GAEA WILL SOON CEASE TO BE EVENTUALLY. THE PASSAGE of TIME CLAIMS ALL LIFE

HUH?
NO, YOU, MY FRIEND, ARE AN ASS!
THERE IT IS AGAIN!

I STILL BELIEVE IN YOU, ESCAFLOWNE!
YOU YOURSELF MUST ENTRUST YOUR SOUL TO OUR GUARDIAN DEITY.
I GUESS IT'S NOW OR NEVER.
C'MERE, HITOMI.
THE DOOR TO ESCAFLOWNE IS THROUGH HER ENERGY PANEL.
!!
WHAT ARE YOU DOING ?!
PLEASE, ESCAFLOWNE! TAKE YOUR REAL FORM!

YOU DARE DEFY FATE?
HEY!

WHEN ESCAFLOWNE TAKES HER OTHER FORM.
SHE MAY FLY THROUGH SPACE-TIME STORMS UNIMPEDED.
SHE WILL SOAR THROUGH DISTANT SKIES, OUR ESCAFLOWNE OF THE HEAVENS.

VISION 31:
MYSTERY OF THE LOST EMPIRE

THIS IS ESCAFLOWNE'S TRUE FORM.
I LISTENED TO MY MOTHER.
WHAT HAPPENED ?!
MY MOTHER SAID WE CAN FLY THROUGH SPACE-TIME STORMS LIKE THIS. SHOULD WE TRY IT?
?!
AAAAH!
KYIIIII!

GGH!
C'MON! WE'RE GETTING ALLEN OUT OF HERE!
YOU SON OF A BITCH! YOU REALLY THINK I'D LET YOU GIVE UP NOW?!
NOT WITHOUT YOU!
DON'T BOTHER, VAN.
GET HITOMI AND ESCAFLOWNE OUT OF HERE!

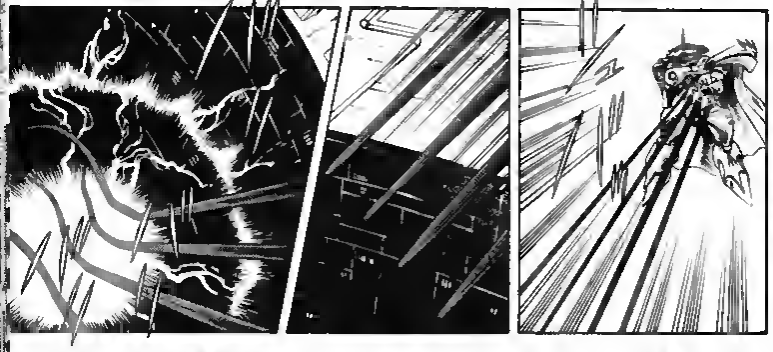
VAN, I DON'T THINK WE CAN USE THAT NOW!
WELL?!
?!
HITOMI, HIT HIM WITH THE ENERGIST WAVE!
WHAT?! THIS IS ESCAFLOWNE'S ULTIMATE FORM...AND YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT IT'S WEAKER?!

YES, ALLEN! IN FACT, I THINK I'VE NEVER BEEN BETTER!
ESCAFLOWNE IS ABSORBING THE STORM!
GOOD LORD.
?!
HUH?!
SOMETHING'S HAPPENING!
VAN, YOU OKAY?

IT LOOKS LIKE OUR FATE HASN'T QUITE BEEN DECIDED YET, ENFORCER. SO WHY DON'T YOU TAKE ALL YOUR SPEECHES AND SHOVE THEM UP YOUR ANCIENT ASS?!

I THINK IT'S.. CONVERTING THE STORM INTO ENERGY.
THAT ENERGIST'S GLOWING BRIGHTER THAN I'VE EVER SEEN.
CAN IT DO THAT?
HYAAAAGH!
WE CAN PASS THE STORMS AND HIT THE ARK, HITOMI!
I THINK WE'VE GOT IT!
LEAVE IT ALONE, ALLEN. WE'VE ALREADY BEATEN IT.
キィィン
!!
GYAA!

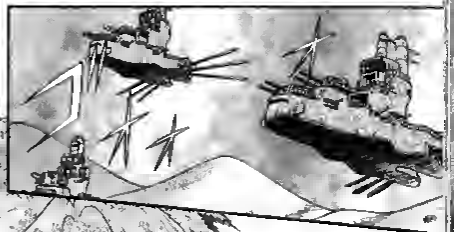
...TO LET SOMETHING AS QUESTIONABLE AS FATE STAND IN OUR WAY.
BUT THAT'S NOT GONNA STOP ME FROM FIGHTING. WE'VE BEEN THROUGH FAR TOO MUCH..
LET'S GO!
HMM.
WELL PUT.
NICE WORK, VAN
IF THIS IS M-MY FATE...
...I MUST ACCEPT IT
YOU'VE TAKEN MY EYE. I CANNOT FIGHT
GO.
!!
.....
THE ENFORCER of FATE MUST ALSO ENFORCE HIS OWN
MAYBE WE DON'T STAND A CHANCE.
MAYBE IT'S ALREADY SET AND WE CAN'T CHANGE IT
LISTEN UP, SUNSHINE. IT'S POSSIBLE THAT YOU'RE RIGHT ABOUT FATE.



VERY CLEVER. I WON'T BE ENTERING WITH MY KNIGHT MACHINE, THEN.
AN ELECTRO-MAGNETIC BARRIER.

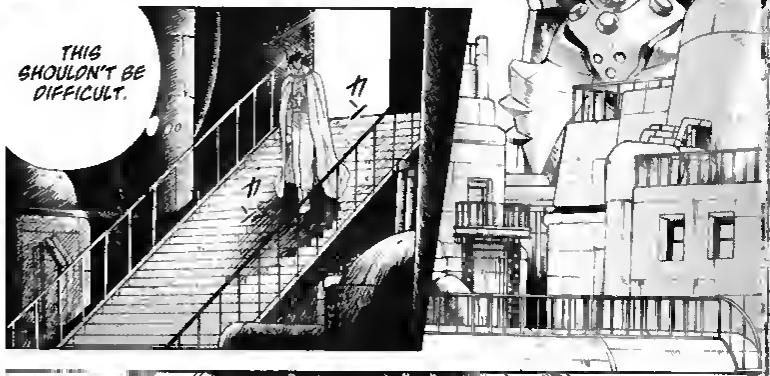
THAT WAS CLOSE. THIS MISSION JUST KEEPS GETTING BETTER AND BETTER.

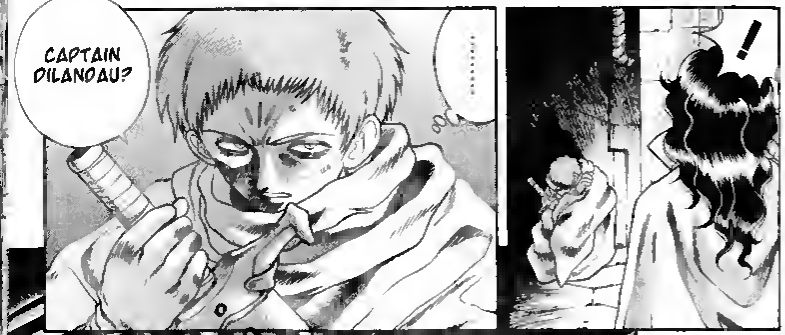
YOU HEARD HIM. UP AND OUT!



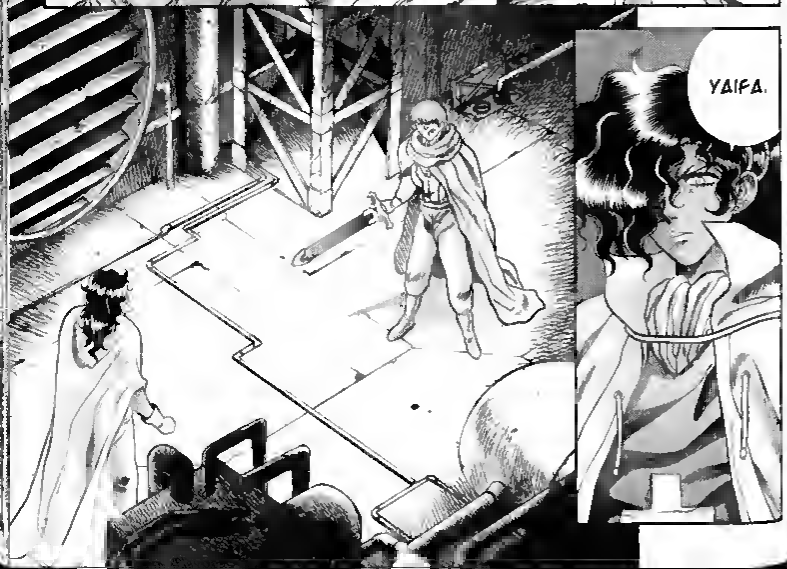
I JUST PRAY I'M READY. AFTER ALL, WE'RE NOT GONNA GET ANOTHER SHOT AT THIS.
GOD ONLY KNOWS WHAT'S WAITING FOR US AT THE ARK.

I NEED A LIGHT.
THEY PROBABLY HAVEN'T EVEN DELETED MY ENTRY CODE YET.

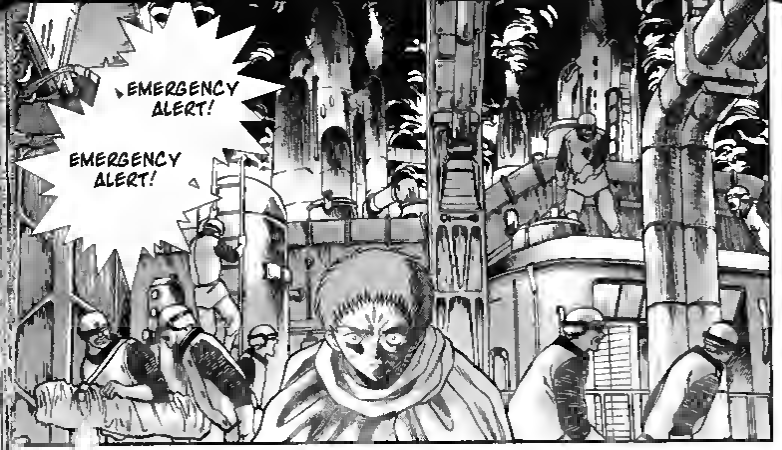

THIS SHOULDN'T BE DIFFICULT.


CAPTAIN DILANDAU?
.....
!

I BELIEVE THERE'S AN ENTRANCE IN THE CENTER.
ONLY THE MOST TRUSTED ZAIBACH OFFICERS KNOW OF THE SECRET PASSAGE TO CASTLE DORNKIRK.

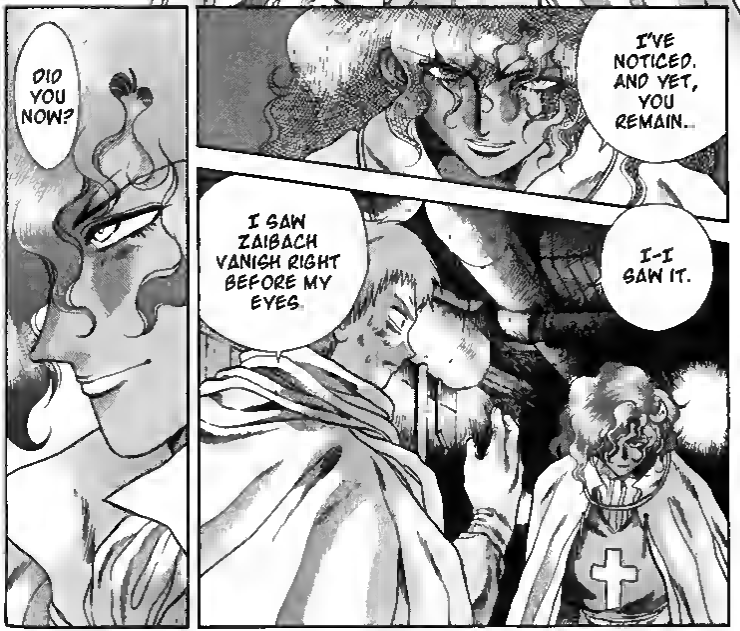

YAIFA.

THEIR MOST HIGHLY GUARDED SECRETS ARE STILL FRESH IN MY MIND.
IT WASN'T THAT LONG AGO THAT I WORE THE UNIFORM OF ZAIBACH.


EMERGENCY ALERT!
EMERGENCY ALERT!

?!
GO TO ZONE D-1 THE SURFACE IS ABOUT TO BECOME UNINHABITABLE
LEAVE HERE, YAIFA!
GELG-URAN?!
UNINHABITABLE? BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REFUGEES?!
WHAT ABOUT THEM?

!!!!
THE EMPIRE IS GONE!
WHY HAVE YOU RETURNED HERE, CAPTAIN?

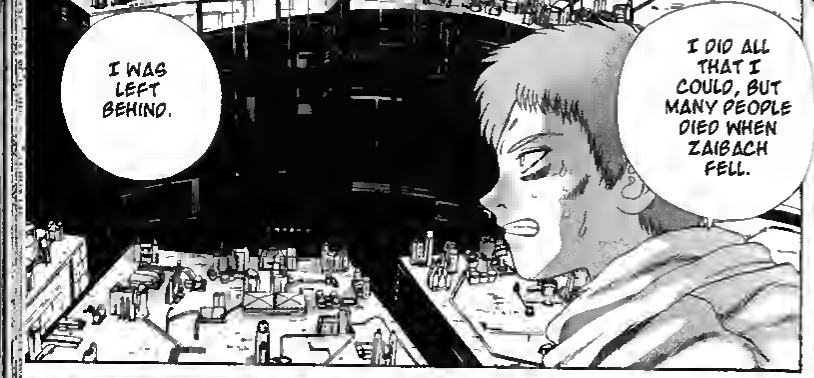

DID YOU NOW?
I'VE NOTICED. AND YET, YOU REMAIN...
I SAW ZAIBACH VANISH RIGHT BEFORE MY EYES.
I-I SAW IT.

I CAN SEE I'VE BEEN WASTING MY TIME WITH YOU HOW DISAPPOINTING
YAIFA!
THIS IS CRAZY!
I'M GETTING THE REFUGEES TO SAFETY!
THE MISSION ISN'T OVER YET.
YOU'RE A DISGRACE, YAIFA. EVEN YOUR MISSION TO KILL DILANDAU HAS BEEN A FAILURE.
ALREADY THE ZAIBACH EMPIRE HAS BEGUN ITS TRANSFORMATION
IT BEGINS.
?!

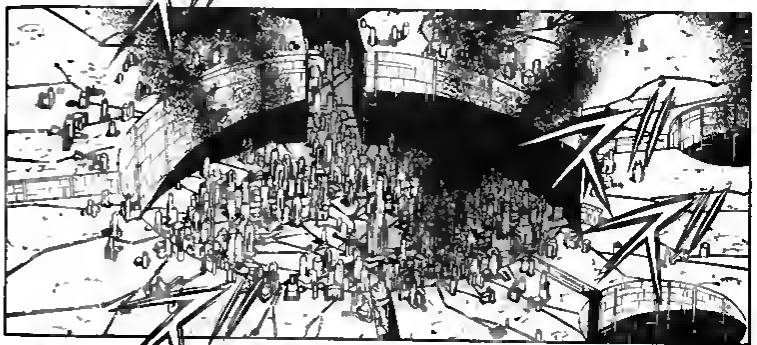
THE IMPORTANT THING IS THAT YOU WILL BE AMONG THE TRAVELERS. YOUR FUTURE LIES WITH THE BLUE PLANET
THE ROAD TO PARADISE IS A NARROW ONE, YAIFA. YOU KNEW THAT.
CARRY IT? MY BOY, THE ARK IS POWERED BY IT!
NO, NO.
WE CAN'T DESERT THE EMPIRE
ZAIBACH IS SO MUCH MORE THAN A CITY IT'S THE CORNERSTONE OF THE NEW DOMINION!
THE EMPIRE WILL MOVE UNDERGROUND AND JOIN WITH THE ARK.
SURELY IT'S NOT BIG ENOUGH TO CARRY AN ENTIRE CITY!
THE ARK?

YOU HAVE TO HURRY!
GET AS FAR AWAY FROM THE CITY AS POSSIBLE!
?!
HUH?
YAH!
MOMMY, I'M SCARED!
EASY, GIRL.

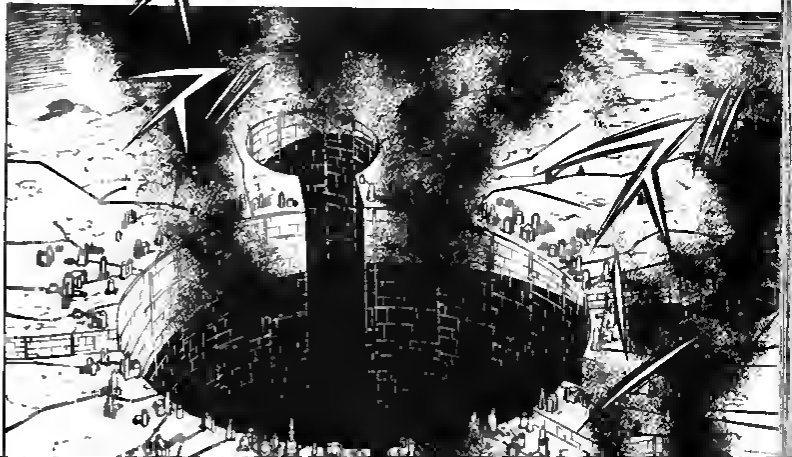
DEAR GOD... IT'S SINKING!


I WAS LEFT BEHIND.
I DID ALL THAT I COULD, BUT MANY PEOPLE DIED WHEN ZAIBACH FELL.

THE EMPIRE IS NO MORE, LORD. YOUR GOALS ARE NOW FUTILE.



!
I ALREADY KNOW THE TRUE OBJECTIVE OF THE EMPIRE
YAIFA, YAIFA, YAIFA... HEH, HEH, HEH.
HEH...



YOU WILL NOT STEAL CONTROL OF GAEA!
YOU'RE DELUDED, DILANDAU!
FOR FAR TOO LONG, I HAVE LIVED AS AN OUTCAST I HAVE NEVER HAD A TRUE HOME IT'S TIME FOR THAT TO CHANGE
BUT WHY SETTLE FOR A KINGDOM WHEN YOU CAN HAVE AN ENTIRE PLANET?!
I'M SORRY, LORD.
STILL A FOOL, I SEE.
A WEAPON STRONG ENOUGH TO DESTROY A PLANET...OR CONQUER ONE!
THE BLUE PLANET CAN HANG FOR ALL I CARE. WHAT I WANT IS THE POWER OF THE ARK!
IT'S MANKIND'S CROWNING ACHIEVEMENT!
WHAT?!
OH, BUT I AM, YAIFA
YOU CAN'T BE SERIOUS!
SIT BACK AND WATCH, YAIFA DORNKIRK'S DAYS ARE NUMBERED SOON WE WILL ENTER A NEW DYNASTY, AND ALL WILL BOW TO ME!

PREPARE YOURSELF!
WHAT?!

A BRAINLESS SOLDIER TO THE END

THINK WHAT YOU WANT. MY SWORD IS MORE SKILLED THAN YOURS...I WILL WIN.

YOU'LL CHOKE ON THOSE WORDS

MY LAST ORDER FROM THE EMPIRE WAS FOR YOUR DEATH.
BY DEFEATING YOU, I CAN FULFILL THAT ORDER AND PROTECT GAEA. I SEE IT AS A WIN-WIN

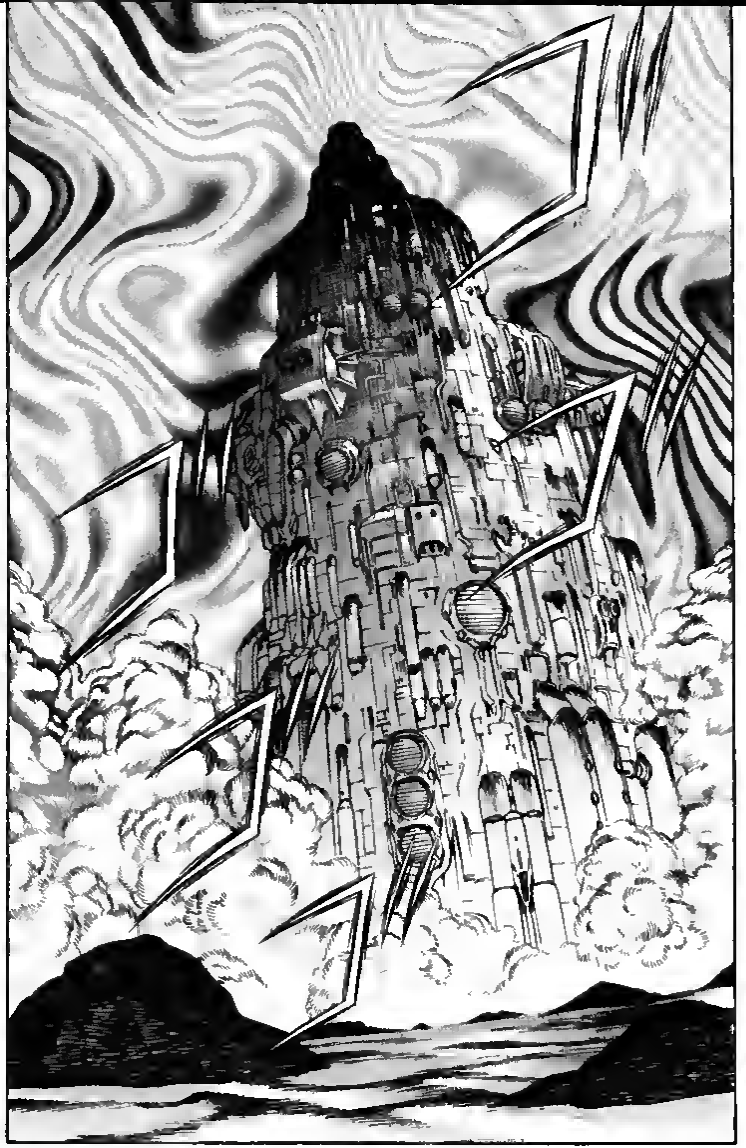
NO!
NN...
?!
THIS ENDS.
AAH!
PH!
THUD
GOODBYE, CAPTAIN!
HUFF!
HUFF!

WHAT?!
DO YOU REALLY THINK YOU K-KILLED YOUR MOTHER?
NO CHILD THAT YOUNG COULD POSSIBLY KILL AN ADULT.
I HEARD YOU WERE F-FIVE
WHAT KIND OF..
DID YOU EVER THINK.. YOUR MOTHER LET YOU KILL HER?
!!
YOU COULD HAVE KILLED ME! VICTORY WAS IN YOUR GRASP!
DAMMIT, YAIFA! WHAT DID I TEACH YOU ABOUT HESITATING ?!
I KNEW I C-COULD NEVER... REALLY... GO THROUGH WITH IT.
IT'S.. ALL RIGHT.
PLEASE LISTEN, MY LORD.
YOU COULDN'T EVEN KILL YOUR CAPTAIN.
I KILLED MY MOTHER TO SURVIVE.
WHY? WHY CHOOSE DEATH RATHER THAN LIFE?

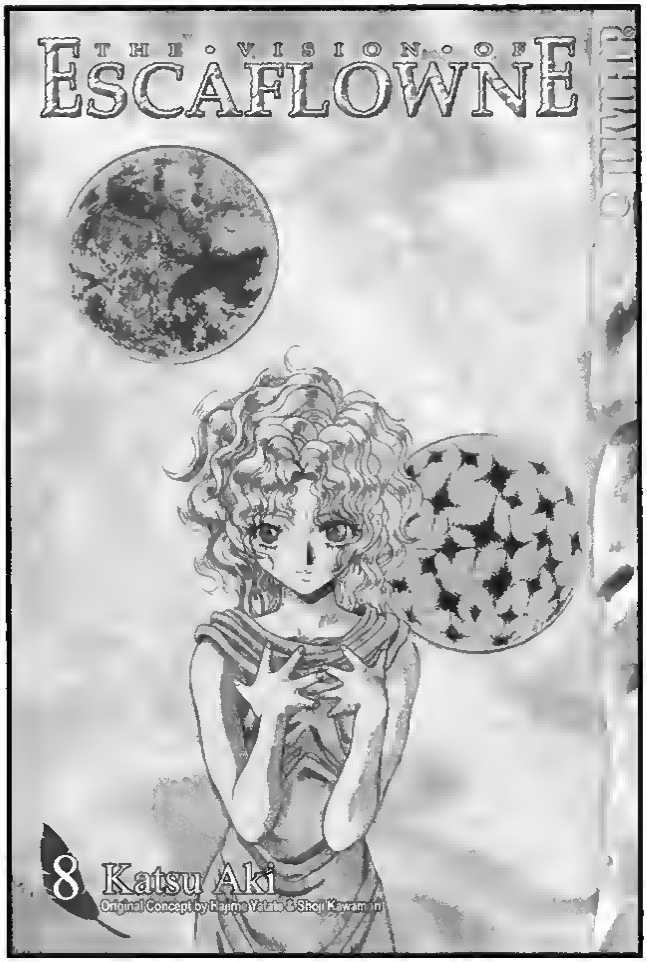
NO! YAIFA!
HEH, HEH, HEH.
HGKT.. HEH..
NO ..
HA HA HA HA!
IMPOS-SIBLE!
NO.
I DON'T BELIEVE...THAT SHE COULD BRING HERSELF TO KILL YOU.
AS I. COULD NOT...KILL YOU.
SHE COULON'T.. BECAUSE..
..SHE LOVED YOU...
NO

REFINEMENT OF THE CENTRAL ENERGIST IS COMPLETE.
ALL PROGRAMS ARE OPERATIONAL.
READY ARK FOR MOBILIZATION...
YAIFA, YOU FOOL...
...WHO CARES ABOUT THE P-PAST NOW?
IT'S MINE AND NOTHING CAN STOP ME.
WAAAAAIT FOR ME, VAN. HEH, HEH..
THE ARK IS MINE
NOTHING IN THIS WORLD!

THE VISION OF ESCAFLOWNE



To be concluded...



In the next volume of

THE VISION OF
ESCAFLOWNE

Van and Hitomi have at last come to the end of their journey. Amidst the violence and destruction, the two try not to lose track of themselves--even when they are separated and Escaflowne is put in grave danger. The final showdown with Dornkirk is not going as planned, and deeply rooted pain from the past pierces through the years and into Hitomi's heart.

It will take all of her and Van's strength to see beyond the battle and back to the very start of Gaea; a lesson is to be learned from the turbulent planet if Hitomi can only find it. And then there is Dilandau, and Van and Hitomi's fate...all secrets are revealed and all battles completed in this final, shocking volume of *The Vision of Escaflowne*.

What does it take to save a world?